HK Airlines mulls return to Saipan for Lunar New Year. PAGE 2
'CNMI readiness, resilience demonstrated during Bolaven.' PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 204

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY OCTOBER 13, 2023 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Propst: PPEs worth millions of dollars dumped as trash

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Boxes of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) that according to House of Representatives Floor Leader Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) yesterday are worth millions of dollars have been dumped as trash near the Fire Substation in Koblerville.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a scene that he described as "pretty disturbing," boxes and boxes of Personal Protective Equipment worth millions of dollars have been dumped as trash in Koblerville, according to Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) yesterday, adding that he hasn't heard from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's Office about this matter despite the wanton waste of federal monies.

» Lawmaker hits FBI, US Attorney's Office for allegedly not acting despite waste of federal funds

Propst, who is the House of Representatives floor leader, stated during a House session

See TRASH on Page 4

House passes bill to establish excise tax for betel nut

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday a bill that would establish an excise tax for betel nut/areca nut and lime mix.

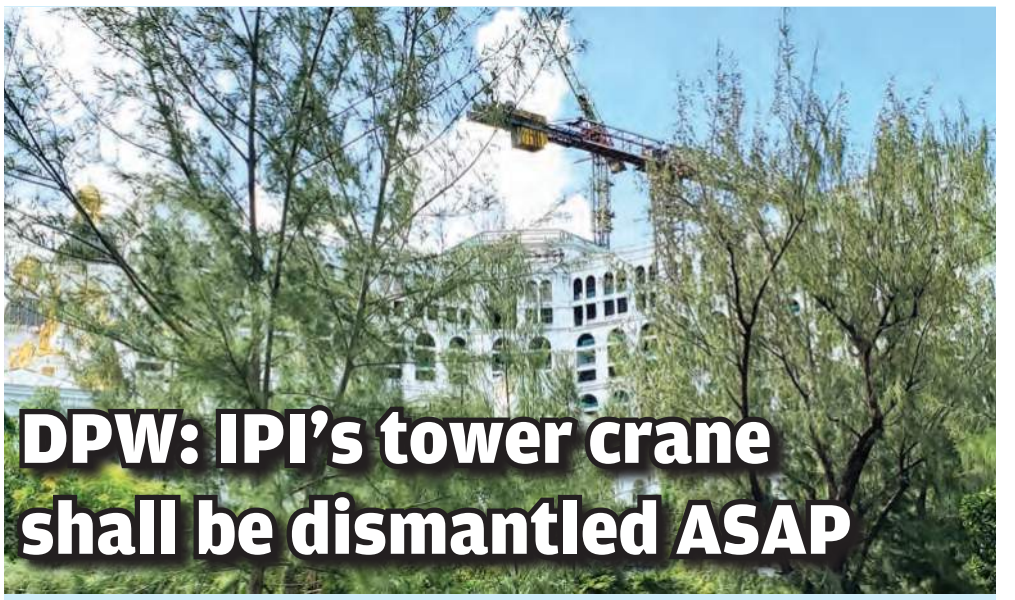
Flores

House members adopted during a session a Ways and Means Committee report recommending the passage of House Bill 23-41 in the form of House Draft 1.

With 17 House members voting "yes," Rep. Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) voting "no," and Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai (D-Saipan) abstaining, the bill passed the House; it now goes to the Senate for action.

In explaining his "no" vote, Manglona said that, with everything that's going on right now with inflation and austerities, he does not feel that raising taxes is the solution

See BETEL NUT on Page 4



DPW: IPI's tower crane shall be dismantled ASAP

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Tower crane No. 5 is seen atop the unfinished Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino/resort building in Garapan in this file photo taken from the beach side on Aug. 20, 2023.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works has underscored the need to remove immediately the tower crane atop Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's unfinished casino project in Garapan after determining that it poses an imminent threat to public safety and properties.

In a notice of actual and

See CRANE on Page 4

Saipan-Rota flights now cost nearly the same as Rota-Guam flights

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

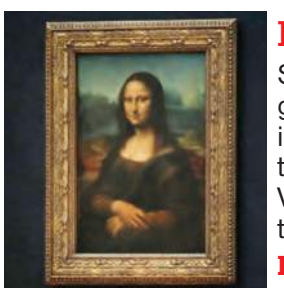
As previously announced, Star Marianas Airlines has raised its airfare prices, with flights from Saipan to Rota now nearly the

See FLIGHTS on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Cup BAB is expanding its already eclectic menu by adding sushi and Filipino-style sweet spaghetti and hamburger steak.
PAGE 14

ASIA
A U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier arrived in South Korea on Thursday in a demonstration of strength against North Korea.
PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE
Scientists have gained new insight into the techniques that Leonardo da Vinci used to paint the "Mona Lisa."
PAGE 19

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Local

HK Airlines interested in returning to Saipan for Chinese New Year

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of Hong Kong's largest airline companies, Hong Kong Airlines, has informed the Marianas Visitors Authority of its intent to re-launch its Hong Kong-Saipan route in time for the Lunar New Year next year.

In an interview with MVA managing director Chris Concepcion yesterday, he said Hong Kong Airlines has expressed its interest just a few weeks ago to relaunch its Hong Kong-Saipan flights in the first quarter of 2024.

Hong Kong Airlines had been flying from Hong Kong to Saipan for three to four years before the pandemic.

"We had a conference call with Hong Kong Airlines a couple of weeks ago. They informed us that they contacted the Commonwealth Ports Authority and they were targeting a re-launching in November. However, [now], they informed us that they're pushing the relaunching back to the first quarter of next year—around the Chinese New Year period, or February," he said.

Based on the conference call with Hong Kong Airlines, they have shared that they are expecting a scheduled flight to Saipan four times a week. These flights could potentially bring over 200 passengers.

Concepcion said this is a great development for the CNMI's tourism industry as the Lunar New Year is peak travel season for the people of Hong Kong.

"This is high season for them. That's going to be an interesting development for us. It's always good news for the tourism industry every time there is an airline launch, or in this case a relaunch, as Hong Kong Airlines used to fly to Saipan pre-pandemic," he said.

MVA, Concepcion said, is excited to welcome the airline back to Saipan and is ready to support them in any way.

"We're eager to welcome them back. We've offered them our support in terms of marketing and doing seminars to sort of warm the market up and re-introduce the CNMI as a destination to Hong Kong. Hong Kong alone has around 7-8 million people so that's a good development for the CNMI tourism industry. Hong Kong is the most recent development and it's very exciting to tap into that market. Also, Hong Kong is part of the CNMI visa waiver program," Concepcion said.

MVA remains in communication with Hong Kong Airlines and will update the community of the development of Hong Kong Airlines' plans.

"We are in close communication with Hong Kong Airlines and we are just waiting for them to get back to us on their plans. From there, we will provide them with information for CPA, ground handlers, [Customs and Border Protection], [Transportation Security Administration], essentially just giving them an updated contact list of the key stakeholders they're going to be dealing with before they relaunch," he said.

Currently, the only other airlines making flights to Saipan are Jeju, T'Way, Asiana, and United Airlines.

"At this time, we haven't had other airlines reach out to launch or re-launch their routes to Saipan. The existing flights are Jeju, T'way, and Asiana and we also have United Airlines who is currently servicing a Japan-Saipan route," he said.

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‘CNMI readiness, resilience demonstrated during Bolaven’

The morning after Typhoon Bolaven made its closest point of approach to Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, together with Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog, special assistant for the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office Franklin Babauta, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 9 team lead Teresa Serata, and Navy Capt. Harry Elliott IV made an aerial and ground assessment of the island of Rota with the assistance of the U.S. Navy.

Palacios, Babauta, Elliott, and Serata also conducted an aerial assessments on Saipan and Tinian prior to the Rota assessment visit.

“I commend our emergency operations agencies led by the HSEM and also thank our partners at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Defense for their utmost help before, during, and after the storm,” Palacios said.

Out of all three islands, Typhoon Bolaven was expected to affect Rota more than Saipan and Tinian, according to the National Weather Service in Guam.

Assessments are ongoing, and current impacts include downed power lines, fallen branches or trees, and power outages spread across the island of Rota due to the storm. Electricity to the Rota community was restored by late Wednesday afternoon. Water services were also fully operational; however, due to turbidity caused by Typhoon Bolaven, a boil-water notice remains in effect until further notice.

“I have been in constant communication with our residents on the island of Rota as well as our counterparts at the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management office, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Navy as Bolaven was approaching the islands,” Hocog said. “I’d like to thank our amazing team here on Rota, especially our utilities personnel who restored power and water quickly to the community.”

On Rota, Palacios, Babauta, Serata, and Elliot also met with island residents, mayor’s office staff, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel. One of the key discussions between Palacios and Hocog was the power situation on Rota and how to expand the resilience of the power grid and generator.

“When it comes to storms, the people of Rota truly know the meaning of the word resilience,” Palacios said. “They were fast to act and prepare, and were always communicating with us.”

Saipan and Tinian

In the aerial assessments of Saipan and Tinian, CUC reported that all feeders on Saipan and Tinian were online, with the exception of isolated cases where customers had issues with transformers, downed lines, and/or leaning power poles.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, center, is joined by U.S. Navy Capt. Harry Elliott IV in this photo after landing on Rota.

On Tinian, water services were fully online as of Wednesday afternoon. Saipan, however, has customers in the northern part of the island experiencing low to no water pressure due to the storm. ***(CNMI Office of the Governor)***

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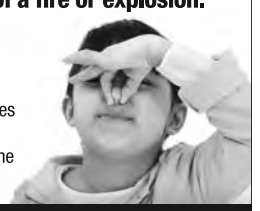

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Cabrera wants to review CPA executive director contract

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority board member and CPA executive director applicant Antonio Cabrera now seeks a review of the executive director contract that will be offered to Derek Sasamoto.

CPA called for a special board meeting last week after Marianas Visitors Authority's Chris Concepcion turned down the offer for the position. The position has since been offered to former CPA comptroller Derek T. Sasamoto.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Antonio Cabrera makes a point during a recent CPA board meeting.

In response to this, Cabrera—who board members have found to be a conflict as he had also applied for the position—asked acting CPA board chair Ray Tebuteb that CPA's offer to Sasamoto be reviewed first before it is presented to him.

"[In a] telephone discussion with Joseph M. Diaz, who chairs the CPA Board's Personnel Affairs Committee, I requested, and chairman Diaz agreed, to provide me a copy of the contract for employment that some at CPA intend to present to Derek T. Sasamoto. During that discussion, chairman Diaz assured me that the proposed CPA-Sasamoto contract has yet to be signed, and, in this regard, I would appreciate your verification of that assurance," he said in his letter to Tebuteb.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CRANE

From page 1

immediate danger issued to IPI vice president Tao Xing last Oct. 5, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, acting DPW Building Safety official Yvonne B. Tenorio declared that crane No. 5 shall be deconstructed and/or disassembled.

DPW Secretary Ray N. Yumul disclosed yesterday that DPW will take down the tower crane and will hire a contractor via emergency procurement to do the disassembly.

Yumul said the Office of the Attorney General and Division of Procurement and Supply are currently reviewing a draft of the bid solicitation.

Tenorio stated in her notice that, pursuant to the Building Safety official's regulatory powers, IPI, its employees or agents, are notified to vacate the premises where crane No. 5 is located.

The tower crane, which looms over Hibiscus Street between the IPI casino/resort building and Joeten Hafa Adai, has reportedly not been used since December 2020.

Tenorio said she will further issue a notice to vacate adjacent structures and protect the public by an appropriate fence or such other means as may be necessary, and may close a public or private way.

As per a provision in the NMI Administrative Code, costs incurred in connection with the deconstruction/disassembly of the crane structure shall be borne by the CNMI government.

Tenorio said these costs shall be a lien on the land upon which the crane exists until recovered by the government.

DPW, through Tenorio, declares that crane No. 5 "poses an actual and immediate danger or failure or collapse, or any part thereof so as to endanger life or property."

She issued the declaration based on the records on file with respect to crane No. 5, together with previous aerial (drone) surveillance inspection, prior professional technical inspection of the structure on the cranes, including jib sections and counter weight.

The official also cited the most recent on-site inspection conducted by DPW's Building inspector and engineer, which revealed that shoring and bracings for tower crane support or tie, as shown in the aerial photos, have indicated that the crane is in serious disrepair and poses an imminent threat.

She said the recent on-site inspection also found rusted components that degrade the structural integrity of the whole equipment; severe rust and deformity of metal structures; complete absence of regular maintenance of the crane for several years; and damage or degradation to the wire rope.

Tenorio said the recent on-site inspection found alignment issues; abnormal wear on the wheels, wheel bearing, and rails; and prolonged tropical environment exposure; the complete absence of regular inspection and maintenance; and abandonment of the crane structures. These, she said, have seriously compromised the structural integrity of the tower cranes.

She said the on-site inspection found that the crane structure is vulnerable to earthquake damage and/or collapse, especially with earthquake magnitudes above 4 or 5.

Tenorio said data taken from the U.S. Geological Survey for the past month and a half revealed approximately 20 separate earthquake activities averaging a magnitude of 4 or more in the Marianas. She said these earthquakes undermine the structural integrity of the crane structure.

Tenorio said the CNMI is now in the typhoon season and the associated risks of the crane structure have increased immensely.

THANK YOU, PRINCIPAL BORJA!

With National Principals Month being observed this October, Adm. Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School thanks principal Victorino Borja for his hard work and dedication for students and their families, Hopwood faculty and staff, and the community. National Principals Month shines a spotlight on the transformative power of school principals. These leaders, with their resolute vision and unwavering dedication, aren't merely running schools—they're molding futures, shaping communities, and paving pathways to success for every student.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TRASH

From page 1

that somebody apparently made millions of dollars as they continued to order PPEs despite having all of that waste.

"And we don't hear anything from the federal government. Zero! Nothing from the FBI. Nothing from the United States Attorney. Nothing! So, this is going to continue," Propst said.

He said they are going to continue to see waste and instant millionaires until somebody is held responsible for that misspending.

Propst recounted that he was going around Precinct 1 last Wednesday when he came across something that he said was "pretty disturbing"—boxes and boxes of PPEs—that are all just sitting out as trash next to the Fire Substation in Koblerville.

"It's just trash. And I thought about the millions of dollars that were spent on that. Some of these boxes dated from three years ago, never used, never opened," he said.

He said it cost the CNMI taxpayers $35,000 a month to store these boxes of PPEs in a warehouse. That means that, for the past three years, the government spent over $1 million just for storage alone for one warehouse, he added.

Propst said he brought up this subject because they just had Gov. Arnold I. Palacios come over to the House that morning (yesterday) to discuss the upcoming financial challenges.

"But we have millions of dollars that are squandered sitting in Koblerville," said Propst, adding that the reason why CNMI Homeland Security took it out was that they are not going to spend $35,000 a month any more for storing PPEs that nobody needs or may be expired.

He said the question is who will be held responsible for this waste of American Rescue Plan Act and federal money from Coronavirus Relief Funds.

"That's my frustration today and it's been my frustration from Day 1. No accountability for it," Propst added.

This comes as House members are coming up with ideas on how to make more money for the CNMI through unpopular taxes. "Nobody wants to tax betel nut," Propst said, adding that raising taxes are never popular. "I totally hate it. I can't stand it. I don't want to raise beer taxes or any taxes. But give me an alternative. Give me something that I can go with."

The House passed yesterday a bill that seeks to establish an excise tax for betelnut/areca nut and lime mix.

FLIGHTS

From page 1

same price as traveling from Rota to Guam.

Over a month ago, the Commonwealth Ports Authority implemented a massive increase in its rental and landing fees in response to its lack of funding as the CNMI's tourism industry continues to recover after the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the CPA fee increases taking effect last Oct. 1, so did SMA's increase in airfares.

Based on the increase, a roundtrip ticket from Rota to Guam is now about $400 while a one-way ticket is $200. Meanwhile, as of Oct. 1, a roundtrip ticket from Rota to Saipan is about $350, while a one-way ticket is $175.

Because of this, Rota community members who have the means to travel are now more inclined to put in the extra couple of dollars to fly to Guam.

Aside from raising its Rota-Saipan route fares, SMA has also raised its Saipan-Tinian fares. SMA now charges $75 per one-way ticket from Saipan to Tinian for local residents; the airline used to charge local passengers just $55 per one-way ticket.

In a previous statement from SMA president Shaun Christian, he said the increase in prices is a direct result of CPA's decision increase its fees and rates come fiscal year 2024.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, CPA adopted a 90% increase in landing fees for both the Saipan airport's main terminal and the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In addition, the CPA board also adopted a 79% increase in its current terminal rental rate for both the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's main terminal and for the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The CPA terminal rental rates for the Saipan airport's main terminal goes up from $19.49 per square foot to $34.92. The terminal rental rates for all CNMI commuter terminals is now up from $7.79 to $13.97.

As for landing fees, CPA will now be charging international airline carriers $15.25 per thousand pounds of certified maximum gross landing weight of the aircraft; they were previously being charged $8.01.

As for CNMI commuter terminals, the 90% increase would bring landing fees up from $4.81 to $9.15.

BETEL NUT

From page 1

at this moment.

Manglona said he does understand that the CNMI is in a pinch and they need to be creative in finding ways to generate revenue.

"I just feel…that raising taxes is not in the best interest for people," he said.

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), who is the author of the legislation, said that, when faced with a situation such as this, anything unpopular such as raising taxes will not be supported by the vast majority.

However, when talking about inflation and the current situation, there are two choices—raise taxes and layoff, Flores said.

"I think we all agree that we don't want to lay off [anyone] and we don't [want] to close our government," she said.

The Ways and Means Committee amended the bill to include imposing an excise tax at $5 per pound of betel nut/areca nut, and 10 cents per ounce or a fractional equivalent of lime mix/afok/bweesh.

All funds collected from this proposed law will be deposited into accounts separate from the general fund and that 50% of the funds shall go to the Health Network Program, specifically for oral cancer patients' stipends; 10% to the CNMI Division of Custom Biosecurity for operations; and the remaining to the general fund.

According to the House fiscal analyst, this excise tax would generate over $1.27 million in revenue from betel nut imports, which is an increase of approximately 9,900% in potential excise tax collections for betel nut imported into the CNMI.

Flores said it is not the intent of the legislation to impose a tax on locally grown betel nut/areca nut and locally made lime mix/afok/bweesch.

Flores stated in the legislation that despite being seen as a normal practice within the CNMI, she finds that such acts of betel nut/areca nut chewing contribute to higher risk of developing oral cancer. To minimize the development of such a malignant illness, it would be appropriate to establish a tax for purchasing both the betel nut/areca nut and the lime mix/afok/bweesch, she said.

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Saipan Lions adopt Garapan beach area

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Leading members of the Saipan Lions Club Region 2, District 204, let out a roar at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan with Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Blas Camacho and dignitaries from the CNMI 23rd Legislature after the club adopted the beach area from Garapan Fishing Base to the Carolinian Affairs Office last Friday.

Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho, members of the Office of the Mayor, and dignitaries joined members of the Saipan's Lion Club for the ninth Adopt-a-Place ceremony last Friday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Joining club members, the mayor, and his staff were Sens. Jude Hofschieder (R-Tinian) and Corina Magofna (D-Saipan) and Reps. Vicente Castro Camacho (D-Saipan) Roy Ada (R-Saipan).

The adoptees, the Lions Club International Region 2 District 204, adopted the area between the Garapan Fishing Base, up to the Garapan basketball court near the Carolinian Utt.

Lions Club International Region 2 District 204 is composed of all 12 of the Lions Clubs on Saipan.

Saipan Eagles-Lions Club charter president Marie Javier said they are not only thankful to Camacho and other island leaders for giving them this opportunity, but this is also their way of becoming good citizens on Saipan. S

"We would like to know what the community needs so that we lions can also give our service to the community for the benefit of many," she said.

Region 2 chair Anamae Adaza also thanked their partners in this project. "Everything we do with the Lions is done in collaboration and partnership so we can get things done. …The Lions Club is here to stay, are here to do much community service. At the same time we are changing the world in our own little ways," she said.

Camacho is grateful to see community members, including the Lions Club, coming together, taking the responsibility, and stepping up to keep the island clean and beautiful. He feels these efforts bring the community together. "If we all work together we can accomplish a lot," he said.

NMC professor publishes book on 'nonrational logic'

Dr. James "Jim" Kline, who is a professor of Social Sciences and Fine Arts at Northern Marianas College, recently published his book, *Nonrational Logic in Contemporary Society*, a book that explores modern examples of beliefs that defy logic but nevertheless are enthusiastically embraced by legions of contemporary people living in technologically advanced societies.

This book is based on the ideas of Carl Gustav Jung, a Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who founded analytical psychology, and his ideas relating to the concept of archetypes.

Archetypes are considered to be unconscious thoughts and behavioral patterns universal to all of humanity and can be expressed in dreams, art, religion, and reports of supernatural and paranormal experiences such as the belief in UFOs, conspiracy theories associated with child sacrifice and devil worship, lizard people who secretly rule the world, and internet demons whom many insist are real.

Kline

When asked about why he wrote this book, Kline said there's a trend in advanced technological societies to embrace certain beliefs that are based on irrational and nonrational thinking.

"It seems that because of the influence of the internet and social media, conspiracy theories now spread much more quickly and result in people embracing beliefs that can ultimately distort the facts of a particular subject or event and in some cases lead to dangerous consequences," he said.

In *Nonrational Logic in Contemporary Society*, Kline's key findings presented in the book emphasize how nonrational thinking is hardly anything new.

"I present many examples of beliefs in the spirit world that humanity has embraced since the beginning of human history, that spirits, gods, and other supernatural beings control the natural world and also influence our thinking," he said.

Additionally, Kline includes the work of many of his students to illustrate some of his findings.

Kline shares his hope that his book can help people better understand how certain beliefs they hold can be a distorted view of reality.

"This distorted view is influenced by the archetypal dimension of the human psyche. Archetypes are beneficial if they are viewed as metaphorical expressions of what is true about the human condition rather than literal expressions of how the world works," Kline said.

"The influence of archetypes on human thought and behavior has sometimes been de-emphasized by the psychological community, and it's my hope that the book will better illustrate how important it is to recognize the impact archetypes continue to have on people living in contemporary societies," he added.

In writing *Nonrational Logic in Contemporary Society*, Kline shares a message for readers to take away after reading it: "A specific message that I hope readers take away after reading the book is how nonrational thinking, which as I mentioned is related to the influence of archetypes, is beneficial if not taken literally. As I also mentioned, conspiracy thinking is based upon nonrational thinking and can contain many archetypal themes. Many of these archetypal themes are related to religious beliefs."

"I actually believe that dreams with archetypal themes are sometimes influenced by powers that cannot be explained by rational means, and that these powers have the best intentions for you if you don't take dreams literally," he added.

The book is endorsed by psychologist, and Dr. Kline's former mentor, Dr. James Hollis, to whom the book is dedicated. Dr. Hollis has written extensively on topics relating to self-esteem and personal growth.

Nonrational Logic in Contemporary Society is important reading for analytical psychologists, Jungian psychotherapists, and other professionals as well as the general public seeking to understand how prevalent nonrational thinking is in modern societies and how it reflects traditional beliefs found all over the world including many of the traditional beliefs of the Northern Mariana Islands. The book can be purchased from his publisher, Routledge, at www.routledge.com.

Kline received his Ph.D. in Psychology with Jungian Studies Specialization, at Saybrook University, San Francisco, CA. He is also the author of T*he Otherworld in Myth*, *Folklore*, *Cinema*, and *Brain Science*. ***(NMC)***

MARIANAS MEDICAL CENTER
MMC & Pacific Labs LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
POSITION TITLE: ACCOUNTANT (1 POSITION)
POSITION DUTIES:
Follows all generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP); Prepare, examine or analyze records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards; Prepares detailed revenue and sales reports each month and reports to management regarding the financial health of the medical clinic; Prepare and reconcile monthly general ledger for all general billing and patient accounts; Analyze clinic operations, trends, costs, revenues, financial commitments, and obligations to project future revenues and expenses or to provide advice to management; Advise management about issues such as resource utilization, tax strategies, and the assumption underlying budget forecasts; Prepares and/or supervise the preparation and approves payroll reports to ensure proper federal and state tax and benefit withholding; Prepares all monthly and quarterly tax reports for filing with proper tax authorities; Reconciles bank account statements and adjust journal entries each month; Reconciles monthly merchant statements; Prepares and review the preparation of all relevant financial statements and documents and reporting for annual tax filings; Reviews and reconciles all financial summary reports from the day before, compiles reports in preparation for mid-month financial reporting to management; Performs other related duties as assigned.
REQUIREMENTS:
· Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field of study. Foreign equivalent is acceptable;
· Minimum of 24 months experience in accounting field;
· Must be a U.S. Certified Public Account (foreign certification is acceptable);
· Must be familiar with and be able to work with QuickBooks Accounting Software;
WORKING CONDITIONS:
• 40 hrs. weekly
RATE OF PAY: $16.19/hr.
The employer will pay or exceed the prevailing wage as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor.
If interested apply to:
Ni Nie Deleon Guerrero, General Manager
MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC
PMB 145, Box 10003
JKR Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 1 (670) 234-3925/3926
E-mail: nidlg@mmcplcsaipan.com
LOCATION OF EMPLOYMENT: MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC; JKR Bldg., Beach Rd., Garapan, PMB 145 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950

CARGO EXPRESS INC.
JOB VACANCY
Accounting Manager
Qualifications:
• Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy
• Minimum of five (5) years of professional accounting experience with a strong background in data analysis.
• Knowledgeable in Peachtree/ Sage Accounting, Quickbooks Software & MS Office Apps
Email Resume: ceispn@cargoexpressi.com or
Visit our office at Lower Base Drive, Lower Base, Saipan
Office Hours / Days: 8am – 5pm / Monday – Friday

TES, TJSHS get $8K in grants from NOAA Ocean Guardian Schools program

For the school year 2023-2024, 72 K-12 schools across the nation were selected to participate in the NOAA Ocean Guardian School program, including two schools from the CNMI.

This is the first NOAA Ocean Guardian partnership with schools from the CNMI.

Tinian Elementary School will receive a $4,000 Ocean Guardians grant to support the construction of a garden on their school campus that will create additional animal habitat and bolster the population of vital pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, as well as reduce flooding, erosion, and sedimentation to nearby waterways. A group of 10 students will participate in this project, headed by project lead teacher Carmen Farrell with support from TES principal Lou Connie Mangloña.

Mangloña expressed her enthusiasm for the program, sharing that "[t]he grant we have secured will be instrumental in launching our school garden project, a vital initiative designed to educate our students, staff, and community about the essential role we all play in safeguarding our previous watershed and coastlines."

Through a partnership with the Micronesia Conservation Trust, the Tinian Junior Senior High School will receive a $4,000 matching grant to support their Ocean Guardian project of combating marine debris on the island. Project participation will come from the school's newly formed Ocean Guardian Club, where students will help remove marine debris from the island's shorelines and nearshore coral reefs and promote better solid waste management for cleaner beaches. TJSHS's Ocean Guardian Club and project is headed by project lead teacher Dr. Daniel Chase with support from principal Lizabeth Perzinski.

In 2009, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries established the NOAA Ocean Guardian School program for K-12 public, private, and charter schools.

A NOAA Ocean Guardian School makes a commitment to the protection and conservation of its local watersheds, the world's ocean, and special ocean areas like national marine sanctuaries. Schools receive small grants to carry out proposed school- or community-based watershed/ocean stewardship projects. At the end of the school year, participating schools must fulfill specific program requirements in order to be recognized by NOAA as an Ocean Guardian School.

The NOAA Ocean Guardian School program was first implemented in California. It has since expanded to other regions around the country with over 150 schools having engaged their students in hands-on watershed and ocean stewardship activities that include campaigns to reduce single-use plastic and plastic pollution, recycling and composting programs, watershed restoration activities, efforts to reduce fossil-fuel based energy-use, and implementation of ocean friendly school gardens and habitats.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary program seeks to increase the public awareness of America's marine resources and maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration, and educational programs. Today, the sanctuary program manages 15 national marine sanctuaries and two marine national monuments that together encompass more than 600,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

If you would like to support TES and join their efforts in establishing their school garden, please reach out to TES principal Lou Connie Manglona at louconnie.manglona@cnmipss.org or Carmen Farrell at carmen.farrell@cnmipss.org. For more information about the NOAA Ocean Guardian School program in the CNMI, contact Janice Castro (janice.castro@noaa.gov), CNMI regional coordinator. You can also visit http://www.noaa.gov or NOAA at National Marine Sanctuary Program—http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov NOAA Ocean Guardian School-http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean_guardian/welcome.html. ***(NOAA)***

NOAA

Tinian Elementary School students participating in the school's Ocean Guardian project pose for a photo with project lead teacher Carmen Farrell, standing, back row, left; and school principal Lou Connie Mangloña, standing, back row, right.

Ocean conservation presentation on Oct 18

Members of the public are invited to a presentation of initial findings and reflections from a project exploring community-led ocean conservation in the Mariana Islands, next week Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023 starting at 6pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center on Saipan.

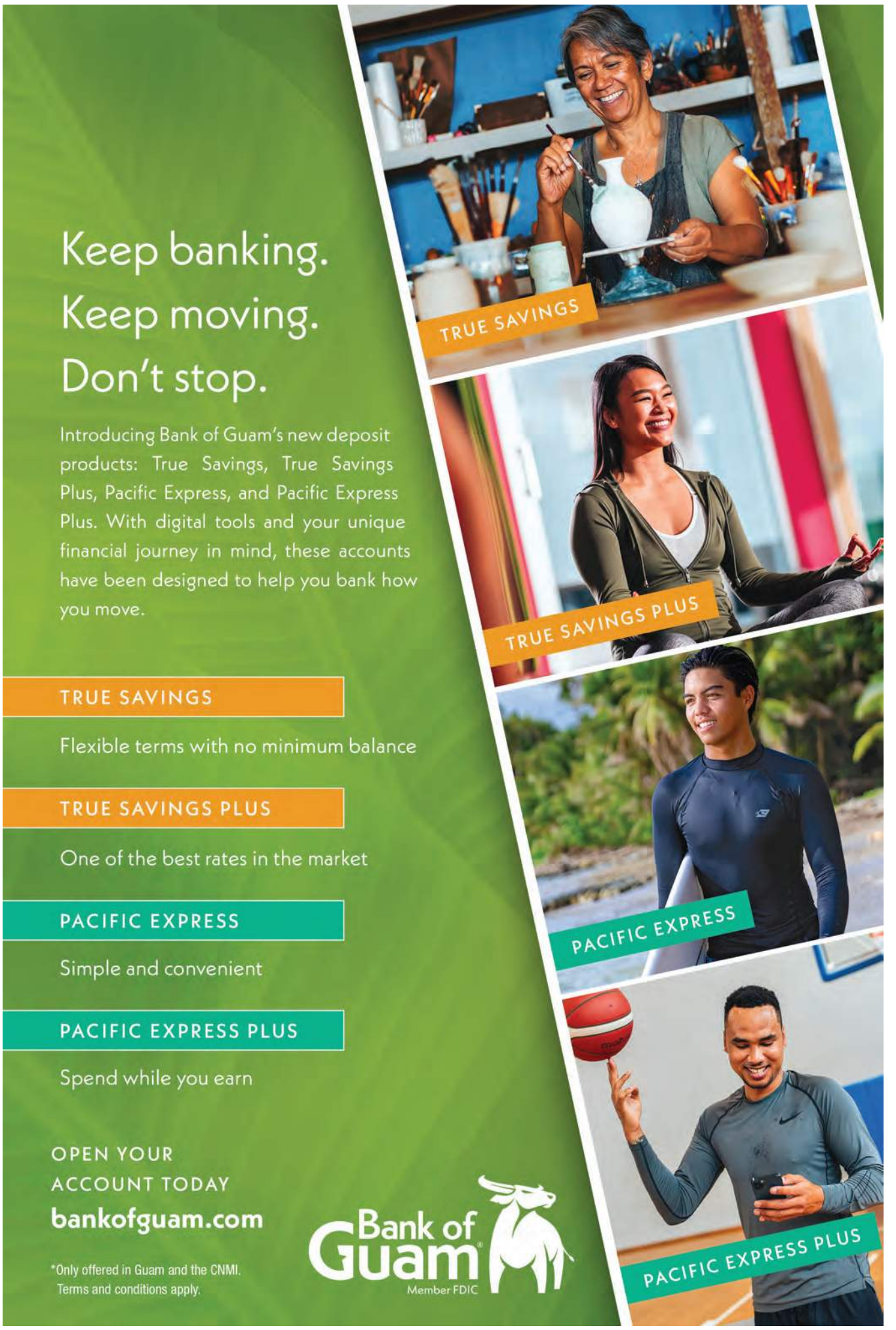
Sablan

Participants may also join virtually at meet.google.com/nvu-cwep-hrs or by phone at 1-860-629-8473 (PIN:706 586 579#).

Project lead Tina Sablan will share the highlights of research that includes a community survey and dozens of interviews in the Northern Marianas and Guam, exploring key challenges, lessons learned, opportunities, and possible paths forward for ocean conservation in the islands.

Discussion and Q&A will follow. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

Contact Sablan for more information at (670) 285 3935 or tinasablan@gmail.com. This project is funded by the National Ocean Protection Coalition. ***(PR)***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USDOL recovers $106K back wages for 29 Guam workers

» Danes Construction Corp. shortchanged workers, provided false payroll records

DEDEDO, Guam—The U.S. Department of Labor has debarred a federal subcontractor in Guam from seeking federally funded contracts after the department's Wage and Hour Division found the employer shortchanged 29 construction workers at Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz in Dededo and gave investigators falsified records.

The action comes after division investigators determined Danes Construction Corp. in Yigo violated federal regulations governing the employment of workers on projects supported by federal funds. Specifically, the division found the employer did the following:

■ Paid ironworkers less than their required prevailing minimum wage rate of $14.84 per hour.

■ Failed to pay temporary, non-immigrant workers from the Philippines for all hours worked.

■ Did not record hours worked or wages paid correctly.

■ Paid workers straight-time rates for overtime hours over 40 in a workweek.

■ Willfully submitted false payroll records, knowing they masked their record-keeping violations and failure to pay required wages.

The division determined Danes Construction violated the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act ,and the Fair Labor Standards Act, as well as regulations of the H-2B temporary worker program.

The investigation led to the recovery of $106,446 in unpaid wages, including $10,549 in damages, for the 29 affected workers who were building housing units at the base.

"Our investigation found Danes Construction Corp. deliberately shortchanged people employed to fulfill federally funded contracts, including temporary H-2B workers who traveled from their homes in the Philippines," said Wage and Hour Division district director Terence Trotter in Honolulu. "Employers who wrongly believe they can profit on the backs of hard-working people will likely find themselves liable for back wages, damages and penalties and possibly debarred from bidding on federally supported projects."

A 2015 division investigation found Danes Construction violated federal regulations by paying employees straight-time rates for overtime hours worked. The division recovered $8,193 in back wages for 17 affected workers in that case.

The employer's repeated and willful violations of federal regulations led the department to assess the contractor with $6,750 in civil money penalties and exclude them from submitting bids for federally funded projects for three years.

Learn more about the DBRA, the CWHSSA and other laws enforced by the division, as well as a search tool to use if you think you may be owed back wages collected by the division. The department can speak with callers confidentially in more than 200 languages through the agency's toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243). Download the agency's new Timesheet App, now available for Android and iOS devices in English and Spanish, to ensure hours and pay are accurate. ***(USDOL)***

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP23-OPD/DLNR-DFW-42300108

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS FOR MIHA AND THE GARAPAN WATERSHED"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TO MS. ERIN DERRINGTON, VIA EMAIL AT erin.derrington@opd.gov.mp OR MR. BRADLEY EICHELBERGER, VIA EMAIL AT beichelberger.cnmi.dfw@gmail.com

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELIZABETH S. BALAJADIA
ACTING DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

/S/ SYLVAN O. IGISOMAR
SECRETARY, DLNR

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: American Yongcheng Corporation dba new Changming Market

THE POSITION: Building Maintenance

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 1

JOB DESCRIPTION: Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment or the structure of an establishment in repair; Perform work involving carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, ground keeping, electrical wiring; Perform pipe-fitting, boiler making, insulating, welding, machining, carpentry; Repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; Installation, aligning, and balancing of new equipment and repairing buildings, floors or stairs; Cleaning and general merchandise work inside and outside facilities; and Perform such other duties as may be assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must be at least a High School graduate.
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as Building Maintenance

JOB SITE: Kadena Di Amor Street, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: If interested, please submit or mail application and comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials to:

LU, XUANBO
Secretary
AMERICAN YONGCHENG CORPORATION
DBA NEW CHANGMING MARKET
Office Address: Kadena Di Amor Street, Garapan Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: PMB 128, P.O. Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: amer.yongcheng123@gmail.com
Telephone Number: 1 (670) 233-5288

FEMA opens additional local hire positions

» Job fair scheduled for Nov. 1

As Guam residents continue the journey toward recovery from Typhoon Mawar, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is opening additional Local Hire positions to help the community recover and rebuild.

FEMA is looking for local hires in Guam with experience in Public Assistance site inspection. To apply online and learn more, visit USAjobs.gov and search for FEMA positions in Guam. Please stay tuned for potential future postings as needed.

FEMA local hire positions are temporary full-time positions, with select benefits and overtime as required by operational needs. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, hold U.S. citizenship, and pass a background investigation. The appointment is up to 120 days and may be extended based on operational needs.

To provide the opportunities to discuss open positions and answer questions, FEMA will host a job fair from 9am to 4:30pm, Wednesday, Nov. 1, at the Guam Museum. Interested applicants are encouraged to bring their resumes, two forms of identification, and be prepared for the possibility of receiving an on-the-spot interview. Sign language interpretation service will be available at the job fair.

Visit the following links for the latest information:

■ Governor's Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/govlouguam

■ GHS/OCD Website: https://ghs.guam.gov/

■ GHS/OCD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/ ***(FEMA)***

MOBILE CLINIC SCHEDULE
OCT 27
Adult Health Check
Update on personal medical history, blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals
Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
OCT 4 12
Child Health Check
For children 0-17 years old. Measurements and growth, anticipatory guidance, resources & referrals
Nutrition Assistance Program , As Lito from 1:00PM- 4:30PM
Dan Dan Children's Park from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
OCT 6 14 25
Women's Health Check
For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals
Guma Hustisia, Susupe from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
(Day of Unity) Capitol Hill Softball Field from 11:00AM - 02:30PM
EVENT POSTPONED
San Roque Parish from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
OCTOBER
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
WHAT TO BRING:
INSURANCE CARD (Medicaid and most private insurances accepted)
VALID PHOTO ID (Driver's license, Passport, Mayor's ID, etc.)
(670) 287-9926/9927/9929
www.chcc.health
@cnmichcc

GCC board of trustees meeting on Oct. 18

The Guam Community College board of trustees will hold its monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, at 1pm at Guam Community College in Room 112, Learning Resource Center (GCC Library), Building 4000.

All attendees are encouraged to wear a mask on the GCC campus.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or service should contact (671)735-5641 ext. 5594/5597. ***(PR)***

FROM RIDGE TO REEF

A Series of Articles Written by the
2023 DCRM Summer Interns
Issue No. 7 of 8
www.dcrm.gov.mp

The Bridge Between Land and Sea

SAMANTHA LISKE-CLARK

Shorelines are the point of connection between our community and the coral reef ecosystem that is so essential to our economy and way of life. This summer, I had the opportunity to study our beaches under the Division of Coastal Resources Management's (DCRM) Shoreline Monitoring Program. One of our project goals for this summer was to investigate erosion on Mañagaha.

Despite the protection of the barrier reef, Mañagaha's shoreline has been changing shape for several decades. In 1996, WWII debris on the east and southeast of Mañagaha was removed, as it posed safety concerns to visitors. Since then, Mañagaha's east and southeast shorelines have experienced significant erosion (losing sand), while the sand dune on the north shore has been steadily accreting (gaining sand). As of 2007, Fletcher et al. stated that Mañagaha "may still be in the process of stabilizing since the disruption of 1996". Whether the shoreline is stabilizing or not, such changes can negatively impact those relying on Mañagaha. The pristine beaches that visitors use for recreation are quite literally washed away, harming the livelihoods of those working on Mañagaha. Moreover, the erosion of the south eastern shoreline has damaged the nesting habitat of wedge-tailed shearwaters (*Ardenna pacifica*). Mañagaha is the only nesting site for shearwaters in the CNMI.

With so many depending on them, DCRM's Shoreline Monitoring Team was eager to assess these critical shorelines. I assisted in conducting island-wide land surveys. We measured the elevation along eight transect lines that run perpendicular to the waterline. This allows us to generate cross-sectional models of the shoreline at each of the eight sites. That is to say, we can visualize the shape of the shoreline and see where it is gently sloping and where it is steep. When we compare present-day cross-sections to those collected in years past, we can observe changes to the shape of the shoreline and determine whether erosion has occurred.

Our preliminary results suggest that the southeast shore of Mañagaha continues to erode, and the northern sand dune continues to grow. The information we collected will inform future efforts to preserve the natural beauty of Mañagaha, from the foreshore's white carbonate sand to the backshore's stabilizing forests. This internship has allowed me to see first-hand how diligent monitoring is essential to well-informed management decisions that conserve our shorelines for future generations.

Fletcher, C.H., Barbee, M., Dyer, M., Genz, A., Vitousek, S., 2007. Mañagaha Island Shoreline Stability Assessment, Report to the Coastal Resources Management Office, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, 90 p.

Leaving A Digital Footprint for Future Generations

REMEDIO DELA CRUZ

When you think of education and outreach, you think of school presentations or translating scientific data into a more simplified version. However, it is much more than that. Education and outreach creates an impact on everyone. It is not only our responsibility as residents of the CNMI to take care of our environment, but it is also the responsibility of our visitors from across the world. Our actions affect our environment and spreading that awareness to everyone is what distinguishes education and outreach.

This summer, I was blessed to be able to capture the beauty of our natural resources and gain knowledge of the different conservation projects happening in the CNMI. The 2023 Summer Internship Program hosted by the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) has allowed me to use my creative thinking skills as an intern under DCRM's Coastal Zone Communications section. My summer project was to design and create outreach materials such as an educational coloring and activity book with a ridge-to-reef concept, stickers, and various social media posts showcasing the multitude of projects and efforts being done by DCRM, to help our community understand the importance of preserving our island's natural resources and environment.

"Human-mediated environmental changes have resulted in appropriate concern for the conservation of ecological systems and have led to the development of many ecological monitoring programs worldwide" (Nichols, Williams, 2006). Our influence created a massive surge of diverse programs throughout the world. Examples include the Marine Monitoring Program and the Shoreline Monitoring Program under DCRM. I had the opportunity to work closely with the interns in these programs to highlight their work through social media, where the community is able to gain insight into the heavy-duty fieldwork being done by DCRM staff. In this day and age, social media is an essential outlet to get your message across and to leave positive digital footprints for future generations.

Nichols, J. D., & Williams, B. K. (2006). Monitoring for conservation. Trends in ecology & evolution, 21(12), 668-673.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 204

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

United States must stand unwaveringly behind Israel

The stories and video are chilling and horrific. Armed men roaming through an Israeli music festival calculatedly shooting civilians at point-blank range before looting their personal effects.

The carnage was part of a surprise attack by terror group Hamas on Saturday morning that left at least 900 Israelis and at least 11 Americans dead. Militants descended upon the Israeli border from the Gaza Strip, shooting indiscriminately, killing innocents and taking hostages. The attack—with Iran's fingerprints all over it—was timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

Hamas apologists described the terrorists as "fighters," but "serial killers" more accurately describes their actions.

And to what end this madness? To provoke a war that the terror group cannot win?

"Clearly, this act by Hamas is suicidal," Nathan Thrall, former director of the Arab-Israeli project, told The New Yorker. "It is an attack of unprecedented scope, and Israel will retaliate to a greater degree than it has before, potentially leading to outcomes we haven't seen before: not just a simple razing of Gaza by airplanes but also a ground incursion and potential reoccupation of parts of Gaza."

Israel has a right to defend itself from such barbarism, and the nation responded as expected: with massive force. The Israeli cabinet approved a declaration of war and counterstrikes began immediately. President Joe Biden put the weight of the United States behind Israel with a quick condemnation of "this appalling assault."

Daniel Pipes, president of the Middle East Forum, noted in Monday's Wall Street Journal that President George W. Bush in 2003 argued that "Hamas should be dismantled" as an enemy of "those who love freedom and peace." Perhaps that day is now upon us.

In addition, this escalation should shatter all illusions about the reality of the Iran regime. "An operation of such scale and complexity is unlike anything Hamas has previously attempted," Eugene Kontorovich, a George Mason law professor, wrote Monday for the Journal, "and strongly suggests Iranian involvement. Hamas has publicly thanked Iran for its support, and Iran's supreme leader applauded the invasion."

Are congressional Democrats and the White House paying attention? Using Hamas and Hezbollah stooges as their proxies, the Iranians have lit the fuse that explodes any notion of their peaceful intentions.

Mr. Kontorovich observes that "Many in the West don't take seriously Iran's or the Palestinian factions' aspirations to wipe out Israel." Israelis, on the other hand, live with the reality of such anti-Semitic fanaticism every day. Which makes it even more important at this moment for the United States and the White House to stand unwaveringly with the Jewish state.

©2023 Las Vegas Review-Journal

This wildfire season, here's another terrifying threat to worry about

By KEN PIMLOTT
Los Angeles Times

Ken Pimlott was chief of Cal Fire from 2011-18.

This fire season, Americans have been inundated by smoke from wildfires that destroyed vast forestlands in Canada, and we witnessed in horror an entire community burned to the ground in Maui. Although California's fire season has so far been light because of a wet winter, many of our state's most destructive and deadliest fires have occurred in October and November. Heightened fire danger is predicted throughout parts of Northern California well into October.

For decades, Californians have benefited from one of the strongest firefighting alliances in the world. In fact, the system now used nationally to manage and mitigate wildfires and other emergencies was forged in California in 1970 from a partnership that included the U.S. Forest Service, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) and local firefighting agencies. The system's success depends on every partner contributing firefighters and resources, whether in the Klamath National Forest or the hills above Malibu.

This year, however, this partnership faces its own threat: looming pay cuts to thousands of federal wildland firefighters.

Funding from the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act created temporary biweekly raises for federal firefighters that have been expected to end sometime after this September. With its recent stopgap agreement to avert a shutdown, Congress guaranteed current levels of federal firefighter pay until Nov. 17. Without further action, however, the funding will not renew. That will leave federal wildland firefighters at risk of losing half of their base pay, a loss of up to $20,000 a year for these workers.

Members of Congress have already proposed bipartisan bills that could shore up pay and benefits for our firefighters. It's imperative that our government take legislative action to permanently secure and stabilize the earnings of those bravely defending our communities.

The consequences of inaction are dire. If lawmakers don't stabilize firefighter pay, about a third to half of the 11,000 U.S. Forest Service firefighters could leave the service, according to the National Federation of Federal Employees.

The Government Accountability Office has confirmed that low pay for federal firefighters is already pushing workers out of federal service and deterring others from joining the force. The agency concluded in a June report that "the pay does not reflect the risk or physical demands of the work" and that it "was not competitive with nonfederal entities." At the start of the 2022 wildfire season, only about 70% of federal firefighting positions were staffed. California has already seen a decline, losing more than 20% of the state's Forest Service firefighters between 2019 and 2021—years when our state faced three of our largest wildfires in history.

Congressional inaction leading to pay cuts could worsen this problem and prompt an exodus of Forest Service firefighters. This would strain California's integrated wildfire response system, placing a significant burden on Cal Fire and local government partners who would have to carry the load.

This imbalance would heighten the danger when multiple large fires burn simultaneously, tying up California's fire equipment and staffing needed to keep new fires small and combat large fires that spread to communities and watersheds. It would jeopardize the response to fires across California, including the national forests.

It's not just about having firefighters during fire season. The Forest Service must build and retain a robust, experienced workforce year-round to prevent disasters by increasing the use of prescribed fires—intentionally ignited, controlled burns that reduce vegetation and wildfire risk—and other forest treatments, such as the thinning and mechanical removal of vegetation, that similarly aim to mitigate potential wildfire fuel. Without the workforce to carry out those efforts, we'll see fires only get larger, placing more communities and natural resources at risk and ultimately requiring even more firefighters to suppress.

A strained and understaffed U.S. Forest Service weakens the whole firefighting system, all the way down to municipal agencies. A failure to act on federal firefighter pay is a gamble on lives, property and natural resources—and recent tragedies remind us that we can ill afford to take chances.

We cannot address the growing threat of catastrophic wildfires while severely under-compensating the people tasked with stopping and preventing them. Congress needs to act to maintain Forest Service firefighters' pay.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

OVR and employers: Partners in changing lives

By ARLENE YAMAGATA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, or OVR, exists to help people with disabilities obtain and/or retain jobs in order to be self-reliant. But here's something else: OVR would not exist without employers who are the hidden gems of OVR. How so? Because with employers, people with disabilities have a job to go to.

Think about it this way: OVR helps people with disabilities prepare for the workforce by connecting them with employers. This includes things like training and gaining work experience. But the real magic happens when employers open their doors to consumers (aka clients) and give them a chance to shine.

Now, let's talk about why employers are amazingly important. First, in partnership with OVR, they offer something called work experience training. It's like a practice run for the real job. Imagine learning to swim by actually swimming—that's how important work experience is. And employers can make this happen, and it's a huge deal!

But that's not all. Employers, through OVR, also offer on-the-job training, or OJT. This is like having a personal coach in the workplace. They guide and support people with disabilities, helping them to become great and efficient at their job.

At OVR, we appreciate our employers very much. They're like the special ingredient that makes everything come together nicely. Without them, the success stories we see promoted by OVR wouldn't be possible.

Imagine a person who couldn't find a job because of their disability. Now picture them with a job, earning their own money, and feeling proud of the work they do. This change in their life is huge—it's life-changing! And it's all thanks, in great part, to our employers.

So next time you hear about OVR and the amazing work they do, remember the hidden gems—the employers. They're the ones making dreams come true, one job at a time. Together, we are changing lives for the better.

On Oct. 26, OVR, together with our collaborating partners, will be sponsoring the Annual Employers Recognition Ceremony, in which about 20 employers will be recognized for their valued contributions to disability employment. Stay tuned!

For more on the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the various ways it can help people with disabilities to obtain or maintain employment, please call (670) 322-6537/8 or contact us online at www.ovrgov.net.

Arlene Yamagata is the Case Services manager at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Biden should give immigrants the dignity of a work permit

By ANNA VALENCIA
Chicago Tribune

Anna Valencia is the city clerk of Chicago.

Few things are certain in life, but one thing I do know for sure: Oscar is going to show up for his check-in at U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement every six months, regardless of the personal peril to which he is exposing himself. I know, because I go with him to offer whatever support I can to this hardworking father of two proud American citizens, his beautiful daughters.

Oscar faithfully shows up for his immigration check-ins for the same reason he goes to church and has paid his taxes in the U.S. for more than 20 years—it is what he is supposed to do. Oscar came to the U.S. as a teenager and has been doing what he is supposed to do ever since. He is an example every American would do well to follow, except for one detail: Oscar is living in the U.S. without permanent legal status.

With 1 in 5 Chicagoans being of Mexican ancestry, this situation may be more common than you think. People like Oscar and his family are your friends and neighbors. They go to the same schools and churches you go to. They are the backbone of our economy and the very fabric of our community. How long must they wait to be treated fairly?

I am far beyond the point of frustration when it comes to the decadeslong inaction surrounding this issue. There is a solution that could be implemented today, and the good news is that momentum is building to help the Oscars of our nation.

With a stroke of the pen, President Joe Biden could change the lives of millions.

Biden could provide Oscar and other long-term immigrants who are in the U.S. without authorization with the dignity of a work permit through the existing federal parole program as he has done for nearly 1 million new migrants. The already legal and existing parole programs give limited lawful presence and work permits to immigrants already in the U.S.

The temporary protected status just granted to Venezuelans and the parole and legal status granted to now more than 1 million Venezuelans, Cubans, Afghans and Ukrainians are important and timely, but they do nothing to help the long-term immigrant contributors, including Mexican immigrants and their U.S. citizen families.

The good news is that bipartisan momentum is building. Given congressional gridlock and raging inflation, business leaders and employers; faith, labor and advocacy organizations, including immigration groups; Democratic and Republican governors; U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, the majority whip, and U.S. Rep. Delia Ramirez and Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García, along with nearly the entire Illinois delegation; House Minority Whip Veronica Escobar of Texas and other members of Congress; and state attorneys general are supporting work permits for long-term immigrant contributors. That is so people like Oscar can work and grow the economy, reduce inflation and keep families together.

As a proud daughter of a Mexican American union member, I know how important it is to give people the long overdue opportunity to come out of the shadows and legally work and thrive. Work permits protect immigrants from exploitation and abuse and facilitate participation in a union. Furthermore, work permits enable our economy to tap into this huge pool of talented, skilled and underemployed workers to help get our economy back on track and reduce the inflation hurting us all.

As the U.S. Chamber of Commerce noted in a September report, "If every unemployed person in the country found a job, we would still have 3.5 million open jobs." This proposal would fill critical labor needs and reduce costs for Americans. More than 70% of Americans agree that it is fair for the recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, farm workers, mixed status families and long-term contributors to be granted a work permit. In fact, immigrants in Illinois paid an estimated $945.5 million in federal taxes and $708.9 million in state and local taxes a year.

I implore Biden to provide work permits for Oscar and the 11 million immigrants in the U.S. without authorization. Until Congress gets serious about passing immigration reform that fixes the broken system, Biden can take existing administrative action to grant work permits for long-term immigrants, for the good of our communities, for the good of Chicago and for the good of the United States of America.

Can Americans have a not-racist conversation about border security?

By LZ GRANDERSON
Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

I don't understand the stripe of Americans whose first response to Hamas' recent attack on Israel is "yeah, but …." Hundreds of attendees at a music festival murdered. Children and elderly people taken hostage. Civilians shot dead in the streets. When it comes to war there are no angels, but there are demons, and what Hamas did on Saturday represents the latter—full stop.

However, I do understand the many Americans who see what Hamas did and think about the danger at our southern border—the Americans who are genuinely worried about the drug cartels' growing influence in border towns and beyond. I do understand the part of America who saw Saturday's horror and wondered how vulnerable we are to infiltration and attack, given the surge of asylum seekers and the U.S.'s inadequate systems for processing them.

I do not agree with Nikki Haley, the GOP presidential candidate and former ambassador to the U.N., on much. However, I found a lot of truth in her comments on Sunday.

"I have been terribly worried about the fact that Iran has said the easiest way to get into America is through the southern border," she said on "Meet the Press." "People are coming through; they're not being vetted. … Israel is the front line of defense for the Iranian regime and terrorists that want to hurt us and want to hurt our friends, and we need to be honest with the American people about that."

She's right. This point is one reason conservatives are able to get elected by campaigning on immigration and border security despite offensive language. Pragmatism. They're taking seriously the Americans who are motivated not by racism or xenophobia but by well-founded fears of a dangerous world.

After all, it wasn't just Israel's intelligence that missed what Hamas was planning. U.S. intelligence apparently missed it as well. It's only pragmatic to ask what else we may be overlooking—and where. We just don't have a great history of being able to answer that question without racism.

Incarcerating Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor. Rampant Islamophobia after 9/11, continuing right up through former President Donald Trump's Muslim ban. Shameful chapters of wrongheaded overreaction. Can we show now that we've learned from those mistakes? The wave of migrants coming to the U.S. will test that.

This summer we saw Democrats across the country, particularly Mayor Eric Adams of New York, being critical of the Biden administration's handling of asylum seekers. After announcing in August that the city had cared for more than 100,000 since April 2022, Adams said the issue "will destroy New York City." Maybe that's political theater. However I found his comments about the longevity of the crisis to be uncomfortably honest: "I don't see an ending to this." America's demand for drugs and war on drugs keep "this" thriving.

Last month, the mayor of El Paso, a border town accustomed to receiving 2,000 migrants a day, said the city had reached a "breaking point" and could not continue to pay for shelter space and other services. Having received 8,000 migrants in a two-week period recently, San Diego County was similarly overwhelmed and declared a humanitarian crisis for asylum seekers late last month.

Desperate civilians in Central America and Mexico take great risks to escape the drug cartel violence swirling all around them, much like Iraqis and Syrians who fled Islamic State and other destabilizing groups in recent years—which is why Republicans in the House and Senate brought bills this year to designate cartels as terrorist organizations. The backers of the bills were war hawks mostly, and some of the proposed responses such as bombing Mexico are downright reckless. But the chaos of cartel violence, such as Hamas-style public kidnappings, looks familiar because it is. It's terrorism.

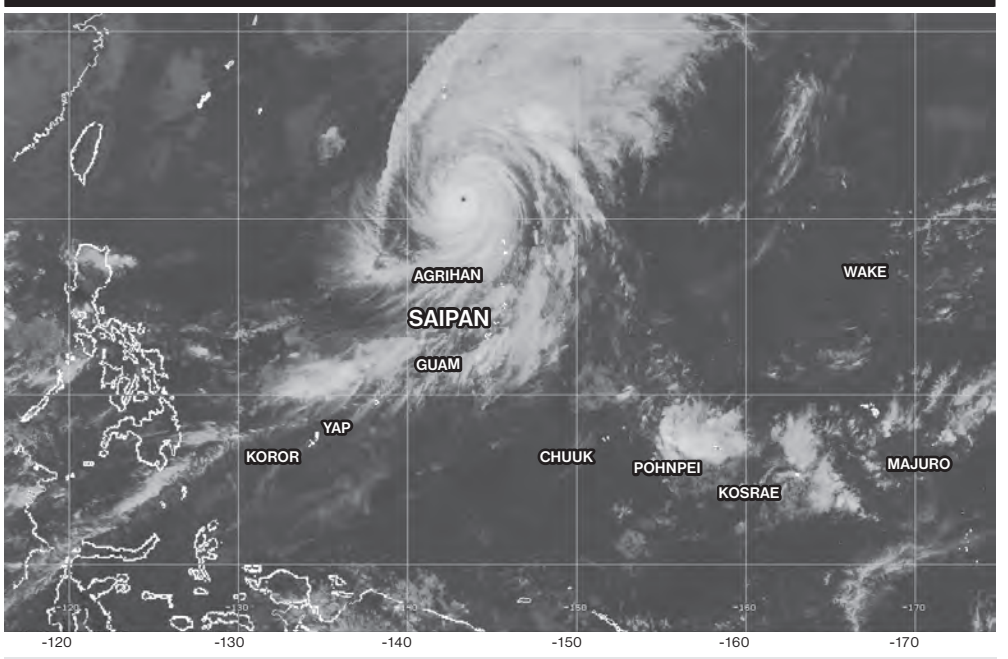
That's why Haley's comments ring true for a lot of people, including me. Whether or not she uses her presidential campaign to guide a thoughtful conversation about border security remains to be seen. But I do know one needs to happen.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. West winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
85 / 76°	85 / 76°	87° / 78°	87° / 78°	87° / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:23 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms moving through the Marianas this morning. The buoys show a 3 to 5 foot east swell and an 8 to 10 foot southwest swell, suggesting combined seas of 9 to 11 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 53°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Hong Kong	Sunny	84° / 73°
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 75°
London	Showers	61° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	85° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
New York	Rain	67° / 51°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Paris	Showers	63° / 55°
Busan	Cloudy	72° / 63°
Rome	Sunny	72° / 54°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 45°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 53°
Seoul	Sunny	66° / 45°
Tokyo	Showers	72° / 59°
Washington, DC	Rain	66° / 50°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	5:55 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:42 AM	5:06 PM	-
Saturday	5:29 AM	5:39 PM	-
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:15 PM	-
Monday	7:07 AM	6:53 PM	-
Tuesday	8:00 AM	7:35 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
12:56 AM	Low Tide	0.58
6:40 AM	High Tide	1.67
12:54 PM	Low Tide	0.43
7:02 PM	High Tide	1.80

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Micronesia Mall 'Glow Run' draws over 1,200

» Proceeds to go to 3 local beneficiaries

The Micronesia Mall celebrated its 35th year of serving the community of Guam by holding an '80s-themed 3.5-mile "Glow Run" last Sept. 17 that drew more than 1,200 community members.

The participants included 972 registered runners, their families, visitors, and fun seekers alike. Micronesia Mall's 3.5-mile "Glow Run" was a neon dusk run and featured exciting raffle with over 200 prizes, including three roundtrip tickets on Philippine Airlines, Family fun activities including face painting by Muse Guam, an '80s costume contest and selfie booth, some of Guam's most popular food trucks, and live music performance by DJ Ron G Swift and Prominence. Participants also received a ditty bag and event shirt.

Organizers said the event was "a success and great fun for everyone!"

Micronesia Mall will be donating the proceeds from the "Glow Run" to three local beneficiaries—Alee Shelter, Island Girl Power, and the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence.

"The island has many cases of domestic violence. We support organizations which help young girls and women who have been victims of domestic and sexual violence. We also support organizations that promote positive role models for young women and families," said Micronesia Mall president and CEO Jeselyn "Gigi" Tan Yu.

The check presentation will take place at Micronesia Mall's Center Court on Sunday, Oct. 15, 1pm.

Each organization will be present to receive a $3,000 donation to their program and conduct outreach and education to the community from 12pm to 4pm.

This event is presented by Micronesia Mall with the help of major sponsor Guam Running Club to conclude its Glow Run event. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 1,200 took part in the "Glow Run" including 972 registered runners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Glow Run" walkers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Micronesia Mall's "Glow Run" costume contest.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The "Glow Run" selfie booth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tutu Group Runners are all smiles during the "Glow Run."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tokyo Group runners hold hand in hand at the finish line.

TANG FU INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT, LLC
PMB 1111, PO Box 10003, Saipan MP 96950

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

The limited liability company under the name of Tang Fu Investment & Development, LLC is filing this Notice of Dissolution effective September 30, 2023.

The Tang Fu Investment & Development, LLC has been in the Hotel business and has been gratified to contribute to CNMI's development. We are extremely proud of our accomplishments in the past years. Unfortunately, due to the current financial difficulties, the running of Tang Fu Investment & Development, LLC has been difficult, like the rest of the companies in the CNMI. Due to this situation, we regret to shut down our company.

On this date of September 30, 2023, the company is winding up disclosure of the Tang Fu Investment & Development, LLC.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2024-002

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: November 13, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

200-foot Communication Tower for the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Project at Mt. Tapochau, Saipan

Project Package will be available on October 13, 2023, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan on **October 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Name: KATE CLAUDIA BORJA
Address: P.O. BOX 502172
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 287-9582

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for:	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0251
E.J.B.N Minor Child(ren)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	
KATE CLAUDIA BORJA Petitioner(s)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 17th day of August, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CHRISTOPHER STEPHEN GANGAN IBAROLA Petitioner,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0104 **SUMMONS**
versus	
ELENITA CAMPOS TORRES Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 14th day of March, 2023.

/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA/TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-005-23
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2023-01-02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning September 27, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport or at the CPA Office located at the Francisco Manglona Borja/ Tinian International Airport. CPA offices are closed every other Monday beginning Monday, October 2, 2023 for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts of the advertisement area and other requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of $100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Tinian Port Manager, Antonio L. Borja through email at alborja@cnmiports.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than October 11, 2023.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-005-23." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, October 31, 2023, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on October 31, 2023, at 3:00p.m. at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

9/25/2023
Date

Business

Cup BAB going Japanese…and Pinoy

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Cup BAB, the take-out and drive-thru service of BAB Korean Restaurant, is expanding its already eclectic menu by adding sushi and Filipino-style sweet spaghetti and hamburger steak.

Dante Conlu, who handles BAB Korean Restaurant's marketing and promotions, said from time to time they want to mix up their offerings and that's why they introduced the aforementioned new food items in Cup BAB servings.

"We want to offer something new to our Cup BAB customers. Normally hamburger steak is served in a sizzling plate but this time customer will enjoy it in a Cup BAB bowl and it's the same way with our Filipino spaghetti."

Cup BAB offering the unlikely union of banana catsup and Italian pasta and a hamburger patty slathered in rich gravy are also an acknowledgment of the Korean restaurant's No. 1 customer markets.

"Nowadays people love and appreciate Korean food, most specially the new generation, but our biggest markets are locals and Filipinos on the island. So, we came up with something that locals (hamburger steak) and Filipino (sweet spaghetti) would like. Our spaghetti tastes like Pinoy-style spaghetti so our Filipino market will love it. We also created a hamburger steak dish in our own unique style that tastes different from the others," said Conlu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cup BAB's small sushi platter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cup BAB's hamburger steak.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cup BAB's medium sushi platter.

As for their sushi, Cup BAB is making them in all varieties and are available in medium and small sizes. They're made fresh as soon as customers order them.

"We have some customers who want sushi to-go so we want to also accommodate them. Our sushi offerings also further adds more items to our Cup BAB menu," he said.

As for the pricing of the new menu items, the hamburger steak is an affordable $10, the spaghetti is $8, and the sushi is $13 for the medium size and $7 for the small size.

Conlu was also asked if the touchback issue affected the sales of BAB Korean Restaurant and Cup BAB and he answered in the affirmative.

"Yes, we've been affected by the touchback as we lost some customers because of the rule. Our sales are down as much as 25%. Come to think of it, all businesses are affected by the touchback and not only us," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cup BAB's Filipino-style sweet spaghetti.

Cup BAB drive-thru in Garapan is open from 10am to 10pm and the San Jose takeaway branch is open from 10am to 9pm.

BAB Korean Restaurant is located at the old Caesar's Sauna building along Beach Road in Garapan. It's open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 5pm to 9:30pm.

For reservations and for more information, call 233-4222 (Garapan) and 235-4222 (San Jose) or contact them on their Facebook page: Cup BAB.

IMF, World Bank urged to boost funding for many African nations

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Many poor countries in Africa face the harshest effects of climate change: severe droughts, vicious heat and dry land, but also unpredictable rain and devastating flooding. The shocks worsen conflict and upend livelihoods because many people are farmers—work that is increasingly vulnerable in a warming world.

Climate challenges are at the root of vulnerabilities faced by conflict-ridden countries in Africa's Sahel region, such as Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and northern Nigeria, experts say. Adapting to these challenges could cost up to $50 billion per year, according to the Global Commission on Adaptation, while the International Energy Agency estimates the clean energy transition could cost as much as $190 billion a year—overwhelming costs for Africa.

Countries have limited space in their budgets, and borrowing more to fund climate goals will worsen their considerable debt burdens, argue African leaders, who are seeking a rapid boost in financing.

Some leaders suggested that this week's meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Marrakech, Morocco, would be "a good place to start" a conversation about Africa's financial challenges and its ability to handle climate shocks.

It comes amid criticism that the lending institutions are not taking climate change and the vulnerabilities of poor countries enough into account in their funding decisions.

The global financial system "is now outdated, dysfunctional and unjust," said a New York Times opinion column by Kenyan President William Ruto, African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina, African Union Commission chairman Moussa Faki and Patrick Verkooijen, chief executive of the Global Commission on Adaptation.

It's outdated because international financial institutions "are too small and limited to fulfill their mandate. Dysfunctional because the system as a whole is too slow to respond to new challenges, such as climate change. And unjust because it discriminates against poor countries," the leaders wrote.

In recent years, climate funding to Africa has increased, with recognition that the continent is least responsible for emissions but most at risk from climate change because of a lack of financing and ability to cope. Major development banks have increasingly recognized climate change as an economic threat.

During a panel in Marrakech this week, IMF economist Daniel Lee said the organization is "mainstreaming climate change in policy advice, capacity development and lending." He did not detail the size or breakdown of funding.

Lee pointed to an IMF program that launched last year to help poor countries address problems like climate change. Only one African country—Rwanda—has gotten financing from the program: $319 million over three years.

Like African leaders, experts say climate financing to the continent has been insufficient and particularly difficult to get for countries in the Sahel that lack stable and recognized governments, with many of them led by military juntas.

"The reality has fallen short of expectations," said Carlos Lopes, a professor at the Mandela School of Public Governance of the University of Cape Town, South Africa. "A significant portion of funding goes toward mitigation efforts, while adaptation, a top priority for the continent, receives less attention and support."

In Niger, whose leader was ousted in a coup in August, as well as northern Nigeria, thousands of hectares of arable land is being lost to soil erosion and dry conditions. It's led farmers and livestock herders to battle for resources and reduces economic opportunities, helping armed groups recruit, said Idayat Hassan, senior Africa program fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Bank of Hawaii reopens Guam branches; Gualo Rai branch still closed

GUAM—Bank of Hawaii's Hagatna and Harmon Branches in Guam reopened last Wednesday, Oct. 11, following Typhoon Bolaven.

Starting yesterday, Oct. 12, Hagatna and Harmon Branches will resume their normal branch hours:

- Mondays through Fridays: 9am-4pm
- Saturdays: 9am- 1pm
- Sundays: Closed

At this time, Bank of Hawaii's Gualo Rai Branch on Saipan remains temporarily closed until further notice.

Call Center operations remain open to assist customers. West Pacific region customers may continue to contact Bank of Hawai'i through its Call Center at 1-877-553-2424 for Guam and Saipan.

Online and mobile banking services will continue to operate unless power interruptions are experienced. Bank of Hawai'i will also place public updates on all of its social media platforms (Facebook: www.facebook.com/bankofhawaii, Instagram: www.instagram.com/bankofhawaii and X (formerly Twitter: www.twitter.com/bankofhawaii), as well as its website: www.boh.com. ***(PR)***

Nation

Scalise left searching for GOP votes to win the gavel

WASHINGTON (AP)—Having won the nomination to be the next House speaker, Rep. Steve Scalise is heading straight into a familiar Republican problem—skeptical GOP colleagues are reluctant to give their support, denying him the majority vote needed to win the gavel.

On Thursday, the House will open at midday in anticipation of floor action to elect the speaker. But it's requiring Scalise to peel off more than 100 votes mostly from his chief rival, Rep. Jim Jordan, the Judiciary Committee chairman favored by hardliners as they dig in for a fight to replace Rep. Kevin McCarthy after his historic ouster from the job.

"We have a lot of work to do," Scalise said after Wednesday's internal party election.

A steady stream of some of the Republicans filed into Scalise's office late into the evening, bringing their complaints, criticisms and demands as he worked to shore up support.

AP

Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., leaves after a closed-door meeting of House Republicans during which he was chosen as their candidate for Speaker of the House on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023 in Washington.

The scene is not fully different to the start of the year when McCarthy faced a similar backlash from a different group of far-right holdouts who ultimately gave their votes, then engineered his historic downfall.

Now entering week two without a speaker, and the House essentially unable to function, the pressure is on for Republicans to reverse course, reassert majority control and govern. The House was briefly gaveled in then closed Wednesday, an expected vote abandoned by nightfall.

"Steve's going to have to talk to them all and see what their concerns are," said McCarthy, who said he would be voting for Scalise.

What's unclear is whether lawmakers who supported Jordan, the hard-liner backed by Donald Trump, will throw their support to Scalise in what is sure to be a close vote of the full House. Democrats are set to oppose the Republican nominee, easily nominating their leader, New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries.

Jordan said little after the 113-99 internal party ballot, only that the GOP majority "is divided."

But Jordan did offer to give Scalise a nominating speech on the floor, in what would be a show of support during a vote. And Jordan himself plans to vote for Scalise, and is encouraging his colleagues to do the same, said a person familiar with the private talks and granted anonymity to discuss them.

A centrist leader, Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., said, "We do need to get a speaker in place so we can govern."

"What we should have heard today after the vote count was: 'I will heartily support Steve. Let's get behind him,'" Bacon said. "We did not hear that."

In a floor vote, Scalise would need to amass votes from almost all Republicans to overcome the Democratic opposition in the House that is narrowly split 221-212. Usually, the majority needed would be 218 votes, but there are currently two vacant seats, dropping the threshold to 217.

Many Republicans want to prevent the spectacle of a messy House floor fight like the grueling January brawl when McCarthy became speaker.

Behind closed doors, the Republicans voted to set aside a proposed a rules change that would have tried to ensure a majority vote before the nominee was presented for a full floor vote.

Without the rules change, the Republican lawmakers would be expected to agree to a majority-wins process. But several lawmakers announced they were not supporting Scalise.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., said she backed Jordan in the private ballot and would do so in the floor vote. Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., said he let Scalise know "he doesn't have my vote on the floor."

But Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, R-Fla., emerged from a meeting with Scalise saying he had guaranteed she could "aggressively" pursue her committee role investigating President Joe Biden, and had secured her vote.

Americans are watching. One-quarter of Republicans say they approve of the decision by a small group of Republicans to remove McCarthy as speaker. Three in 10 Republicans believe it was a mistake, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

At the White House, presidential press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "We want to see the chaos be done with so that we can deliver for the American people."

Neither Scalise nor Jordan was seen as the heir apparent to McCarthy, who was removed in a push by the far-right flank after the speaker led Congress to approve legislation that averted a government shutdown. The next deadline to fund the government is Nov. 17, again threatening federal closures.

All three men have been here before. In 2018, they were similarly vying for leadership, with McCarthy and Scalise extending the rivalry to this day.

Scalise was in line for the job this time after McCarthy's ouster, but faced a challenge from Jordan, a founding member of the Freedom Caucus, who was viewed as a more hard-edged option.

Jordan is known for his close alliance with Trump, particularly when the then-president was working to overturn the results of the 2020 election, leading to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. Trump backed Jordan's bid for the gavel.

Several lawmakers, including Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., who engineered McCarthy's ouster, said they would be willing to support either Scalise or Jordan.

"Long live Speaker Scalise," Gaetz said after the vote.

McCarthy had briefly floated a possible comeback earlier this week but the eight hardliners who helped engineer his removal showed no signs of budging. He told his colleagues later not to put his name forward for a nomination.

At the speaker's office, where McCarthy's name had still been out front since his ouster last week, crews were seen carting boxes and artwork out of the stately suite in the Capitol.

Trump attacks Biden on foreign policy as Israel-Hamas war rages

MIAMI (AP)—Former President Donald Trump on Wednesday defended his record governing the nation for four years without any new wars, and criticized President Joe Biden's foreign policy as the world watches a war that has already claimed 2,300 lives unfold in Gaza, ignited by Hamas' attack on Israel.

Trump and other Republicans have tried to lay blame on the Biden administration, particularly citing the release of nearly $6 billion in frozen assets to Iran, a supporter of Hamas. Administration officials insist that money has not been spent.

"With crooked Joe Biden, you have chaos, bloodshed, war, terror and death. Look what's happening today," Trump told a crowd of supporters in a speech that lasted more than an hour and a half at a convention center in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The Biden campaign said Trump has been pushing dangerous misinformation about the crisis in Israel at a time when the country should stand together.

"While Trump continues to lie about his record, President Biden is laser-focused on providing steadfast support for Israel and leading on the global stage," Biden campaign spokesman Kevin Munoz said.

Trump spoke to his supporters at the venue near Mar-a-Lago as he campaigns as the front-runner in the 2024 Republican primary race for the White House, despite four criminal cases against him.

Rep. Matt Gaetz appeared at the event but did not speak. Gaetz is a Florida congressional ally who, with other hard-right conservatives, engineered the ouster of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. The unprecedented action has kept Congress partly shuttered.

Trump has tried to use the power vacuum to underline his lingering influence over the Republican Party, backing Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan to replace McCarthy. However, Republicans on Wednesday nominated House majority leader Steve Scalise to take over the job.

Jordan formed a close alliance with the former president, particularly during the effort to overturn the results of the 2020 election, which Trump lost to Biden. Two of the cases against Trump, in Washington and Georgia, are over his efforts to overturn the results.

Trump has continued to travel to early primary states and has been spending much of his time focused on the four criminal indictments and several civil cases he is facing.

US inflation may have risen only modestly last month

WASHINGTON (AP)—Inflation in the United States likely eased again last month, though the decline might have slowed since summer, a reminder that the outsize price pressures of the past two years will take more time to cool.

Consumer prices are forecast to have risen 0.3% from August to September, according to economists surveyed by the data provider FactSet. Such a rise would be much slower than the previous month's 0.6% price increase but still too fast to match the Fed's 2% inflation target.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, "core" prices likely also rose 0.3% in September, the same as in August. The Federal Reserve tracks the core figure in particular as a good indicator of the likely future path of inflation.

Thursday's inflation data could bolster—or undercut—the growing belief that the Fed can tame inflation through the series of 11 interest rate hikes it imposed beginning in March 2022 without causing a recession.

Hiring surged unexpectedly in September, the government reported last week, and job gains in July and August were also revised higher. More people earning paychecks should help fuel consumer spending, the principal driver of the economy. Yet the report also showed that wage growth slowed—a trend that, if it continues, should help ease inflationary pressures.

The decline in inflation from a peak of 9.1% in June 2022, without a spike in layoffs or a recession, has confounded economists' expectations that widespread job losses would be needed to slow price increases.

The latest consumer price figures follow a recent surge in longer-term interest rates that has inflated borrowing costs for mortgages, auto loans and business loans. The yield, or rate, on the 10-year Treasury note was just below 4.6% Wednesday, down from a peak of nearly 4.9% Friday but still up from 3.3% in April. Several Fed officials in the past week have suggested that higher long-term rates could help cool the economy, lessening the need for the central bank to further raise its key short-term rate.

"They're going to do some of the work for us" in attacking inflation, Christopher Waller, an influential member of the Fed's Board of Governors, said Wednesday, referring to higher longer-term bond yields.

Several factors have combined to force up longer-term rates. They include the belated acceptance by financial markets of the likelihood that the economy will remain on firm footing and avoid a recession. That would mean that the Fed would probably keep its short-term rate higher for longer than investors had expected last summer.

Asia

AS KIM EXCHANGES MESSAGES WITH PUTIN

US aircraft carrier arrives in S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier arrived in South Korea on Thursday in a demonstration of strength against North Korea, as the North's leader reaffirmed his push to bolster ties with Russia.

The USS *Ronald Reagan* and its battle group came to the southeastern South Korean port of Busan after participating in a trilateral South Korean-U.S.-Japanese maritime exercise in international waters off a southern South Korean island earlier this week, the South Korean Defense Ministry said.

AP

U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS *Ronald Reagan* is escorted as it arrives in Busan, South Korea, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023.

The aircraft carrier is to stay in Busan until next Monday as part of a bilateral agreement to enhance "regular visibility" of U.S. strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear program, according to an earlier Defense Ministry statement.

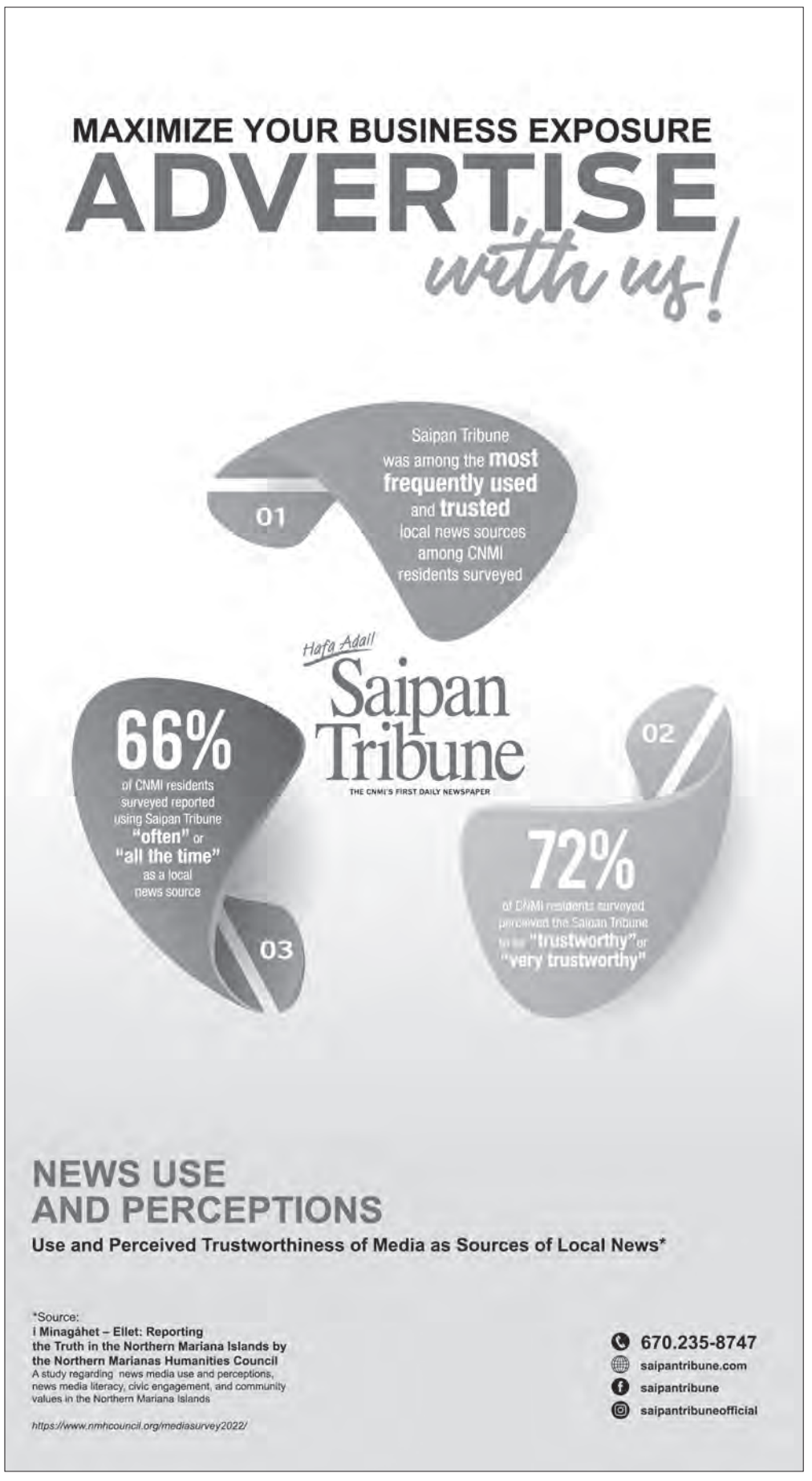
It's the first arrival of a U.S. aircraft carrier in South Korea in six months since the USS *Nimitz* docked at Busan in late March, the statement said.

The arrival of the USS *Ronald Reagan* is expected to enrage North Korea, which views the deployment of such a powerful U.S. military asset as a major security threat. When the USS *Ronald Reagan* staged joint military drills with South Korean forces off the Korean Peninsula's east coast in October 2022, North Korea said the carrier's deployment was causing "considerably huge negative splash" in regional security and performed ballistic missile tests.

The U.S. carrier's latest arrival comes as concerns grow that North Korea is pushing to get sophisticated weapons technologies from Russia in exchange for supplying ammunitions to refill Russia's conventional arms stores exhausted by its protracted war with Ukraine. Such concerns flared after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited Russia's Far East last month to meet President Vladimir Putin and inspect key weapons-making facilities.

Many experts say Kim would want Russian help to build more reliable weapons systems targeting the U.S. and South Korea. Washington and Seoul have warned that Moscow and Pyongyang would pay a price if they move ahead with the speculated weapons transfer deal in breach of U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any weapons trading with North Korea.

On Thursday, Kim and Putin exchanged messages marking 75 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries.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ASIAN BRIEFS

Australian minister credits improved relations with China for release of detained journalist

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong on Thursday credited improved relations with China for the return home this week of an Australian journalist whose three-year detention in China in a murky espionage case had strained ties. A teary-eyed Wong had greeted Cheng Lei with a hug at the airport Wednesday in Melbourne, where Cheng's two children, 11 and 14, have been raised by their grandmother while Cheng was detained. "She was in extraordinarily good spirits. I think I was more emotional than she was," Wong said of Cheng. "I think she's pretty tough. She looked great." Wong revealed that she had promised Cheng's children some time ago that the government would do all it could to bring their mother home. "It was really moving to meet Cheng Lei yesterday and speak to her kids who are not much older than mine," Wong said. She said she encouraged Cheng to thrive and be healthy and happy now that she's free. "That's what all Australians want you to be," Wong added. The FreeChengLei account on the X social media platform described her reunion with her family. "Tight hugs, teary screams, holding my kids in the spring sunshine. Trees shimmy from the breeze. I can see the entirety of the sky now! Thank you Aussies," the post made on her behalf by her partner Nick Coyle said.

NZ immigration hits all-time high as movement surges following pandemic lull

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's immigration numbers have hit an all-time high, enabling employers to fill jobs but also putting pressure on the housing market, according to economists. The net number of immigrants was 110,000 in the year ending August, beating the previous high of 103,000 set a month earlier, according to figures released Wednesday by Statistics New Zealand. The numbers represent a big turnaround after more people left New Zealand than arrived during much of the COVID-19 pandemic. "We are talking very, very big numbers for a small economy like ours," said Jarrod Kerr, chief economist at Kiwibank. Kerr said the surge likely reflected pent-up demand that had built during the pandemic. He said it had come as a relief to employers, who last year were having great difficulty finding skilled workers to fill vacant roles.

New Zealand's unemployment rate remains at a relatively low 3.6%. But Kerr also cautioned the migrants would need a lot of resources, including tens of thousands of homes—something that remained in short supply.

Passenger train derails in eastern India, killing 4 people and injuring dozens

PATNA, India (AP)—A passenger train derailed in eastern India late Wednesday, killing four passengers and injuring dozens, a government official said on Thursday. All 21 coaches of the North-East Express train, on its way to Assam state from New Delhi, derailed near Raghunathpur railroad station in Buxar district of Bihar state, Magistrate Anshul Agarwal said. Two of them overturned and rested on their sides. Local residents rushed to the scene and helped passengers exit the derailed coaches. Ambulances later arrived and hospitals were alerted to receive injured passengers, police officer Deepak Kumar said. D.K. Pathak, a railroad official who was on the train when it derailed, said most injuries occurred in one of the derailed coaches.

The cause of the derailment is being investigated. Early reports said 70 passengers were injured. Agarwal said 31 of the injured were hospitalized. Others were able to go home after medical attention.

Gunmen kill member of anti-India group, worshipper at mosque in eastern Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A pair of gunmen walked into a mosque in eastern Pakistan on Wednesday and opened fire at the worshippers, killing a member of an outlawed anti-India militant group and another man before fleeing the scene, authorities said.

According to the police, the gunmen pretended to be worshipers when they walked into the mosque in Daska, a city in eastern Punjab province. Once inside, they pulled out their firearms and fatally shot Shahid Latif, a militant and close aide to Masood Azhar, the founder of the Jaish-e-Mohammad militant group. They also shot and killed a worshipper whose identity was not revealed. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but local police chief Hassan Iqbal said it appeared that Latif was intentionally targeted. The police chief did not provide further details. New Delhi has blamed Jaish-e-Mohammad for multiple past attacks in India, including the 2016 attack when seven soldiers were killed at a base in the town of Pathankot in northern India.

World

AS STRIKES DEVASTATE GAZA

Israel forms unity gov't to oversee war

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinians in Gaza spent the night in pitch darkness, surrounded by the ruins of pulverized neighborhoods, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to "crush and destroy" Hamas, with the support of a new war cabinet that includes a longtime opposition critic.

"Every Hamas member is a dead man," Netanyahu said in a televised address.

International aid groups warned that deaths in Gaza could accelerate as the territory runs out of supplies amid an Israeli blockade. The war has already claimed at least 2,300 lives on both sides.

Israel on Monday halted the entry of food, water, fuel and medicine into the territory. On Tuesday, Gaza's only power station ran out of fuel and shut down, leaving only lights powered by scattered private generators.

A senior official with the the International Committee of the Red Cross warned that lack of electricity could cripple hospitals, as he called for Hamas to release hostages.

"As Gaza loses power, hospitals lose power, putting newborns in incubators and elderly patients on oxygen at risk. Kidney dialysis stops, and X-rays can't be taken," said Fabrizio Carboni, ICRC's regional director. "Without electricity, hospitals risk turning into morgues."

In Israel, opposition leader Benny Gantz, a former defense minister, joined a new wartime cabinet at a time when the Israeli military appears increasingly likely to launch a ground offensive into Gaza. Israel has mobilized 360,000 reservists, massed additional forces near Gaza and evacuated tens of thousands of residents from nearby communities.

The Israeli government is under intense public pressure to topple Hamas after its militants stormed through a border fence Saturday and massacred hundreds of Israelis in their homes, on the streets and at an outdoor music festival.

Netanyahu alleged that the attackers engaged in atrocities, including binding boys and girls and shooting them in the head, burning people alive, raping women and beheading soldiers.

The prime minister's allegations could not be independently confirmed, and authorities did not immediately offer further details. Rescue workers and witnesses have described horrifying scenes, including the slaughter of elderly people and finding bloody rooms crowded with massacred civilians.

Militants in Gaza are holding an estimated 150 people taken hostage from Israel—soldiers, men, women, children and older adults—and they have fired thousands of rockets into Israel over the past five days.

Israel's increasingly destructive airstrikes in Gaza have flattened entire city blocks and left unknown numbers of bodies beneath debris. A ground offensive in Gaza, whose 2.3 million residents are densely packed into a strip of land only 40 kilometers (25 miles) long, would likely result in a surge of casualties on both sides.

The UN said late Wednesday the number of people displaced by the airstrikes had soared 30 percent within 24 hours, to 339,000, two-thirds of them crowding into U.N. schools. Others sought shelter in the shrinking number of safe neighborhoods.

The Egyptian government rejected an American proposal to allow Palestinians fleeing Israel's bombardment to leave Gaza, a senior Egyptian official said early Thursday, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press. Egypt believes that Palestinians leaving Gaza would harm the Palestinian cause, and its state-run media reported that the Israeli offensive is part of a scheme to empty the enclave.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy visits neighboring Romania to discuss security, boost ties

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with his counterpart in Romania Tuesday for talks on regional security and to strengthen bilateral ties against the backdrop of Russia's invasion of his country.

He described the partnership between the two countries as key to "stability for Europe and beyond" on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, after meeting with President Klaus Iohannis in the capital, Bucharest.

The two discussed security in the Black Sea region, economic cooperation, shared infrastructure projects, and Ukraine's requests for military support, Zelenskyy told reporters after the meetings. He also thanked Romania for providing both military and humanitarian support to his war-torn country.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Ukrainian president described the NATO and European Union member country as "a friend who came to our help on our darkest day and whose support gets stronger with time," on X.

In recent weeks, Russia has carried out sustained attacks on Ukraine's Danube River ports—located just across the river from Romania—as Moscow aims to disrupt Ukraine's ability to export grain to world markets. Romania has confirmed drone fragment findings on its territory, the type used by the Russian army near its border with Ukraine.

"In Romania, it is well-known how dangerous Russian terrorism is, how dangerous the drones and missiles are that attack the villages near the Romanian border," Zelenskyy said. "Ukrainian pilots will be trained in Romania and I discussed this with the Romanian president. We discussed our military requests."

In July, Romania's Supreme Council of National Defense said that the country aims to open a regional training hub for F-16 fighter jet pilots from fellow NATO countries and other partners, including Ukraine.

For his part, Iohannis said that Romania is "focused on helping Ukraine win the war" against Russia and that supporting Ukraine is in his country's strategic interest. "Strengthening Ukraine's security means strengthening Romania's security."

France's top body rejects contention racial profiling by police is systemic

PARIS (AP)—France's highest administrative authority on Wednesday rejected an effort by rights campaigners to end what they allege is a systemic and generalized practice by French police of targeting Black people and people of Arab descent for stops and checks.

Local grassroots organizations and international rights groups had hoped that a favorable ruling from the Council of State could force deep reforms within French law enforcement to end racial profiling.

In its decision, the Council of State said witness testimony and other evidence presented in the class-action case established that French police do subject people to checks because of their physical characteristics. It also said such checks don't appear to be isolated cases and are harmful to the people targeted. But the ruling said discriminatory checks aren't systemic or generalized.

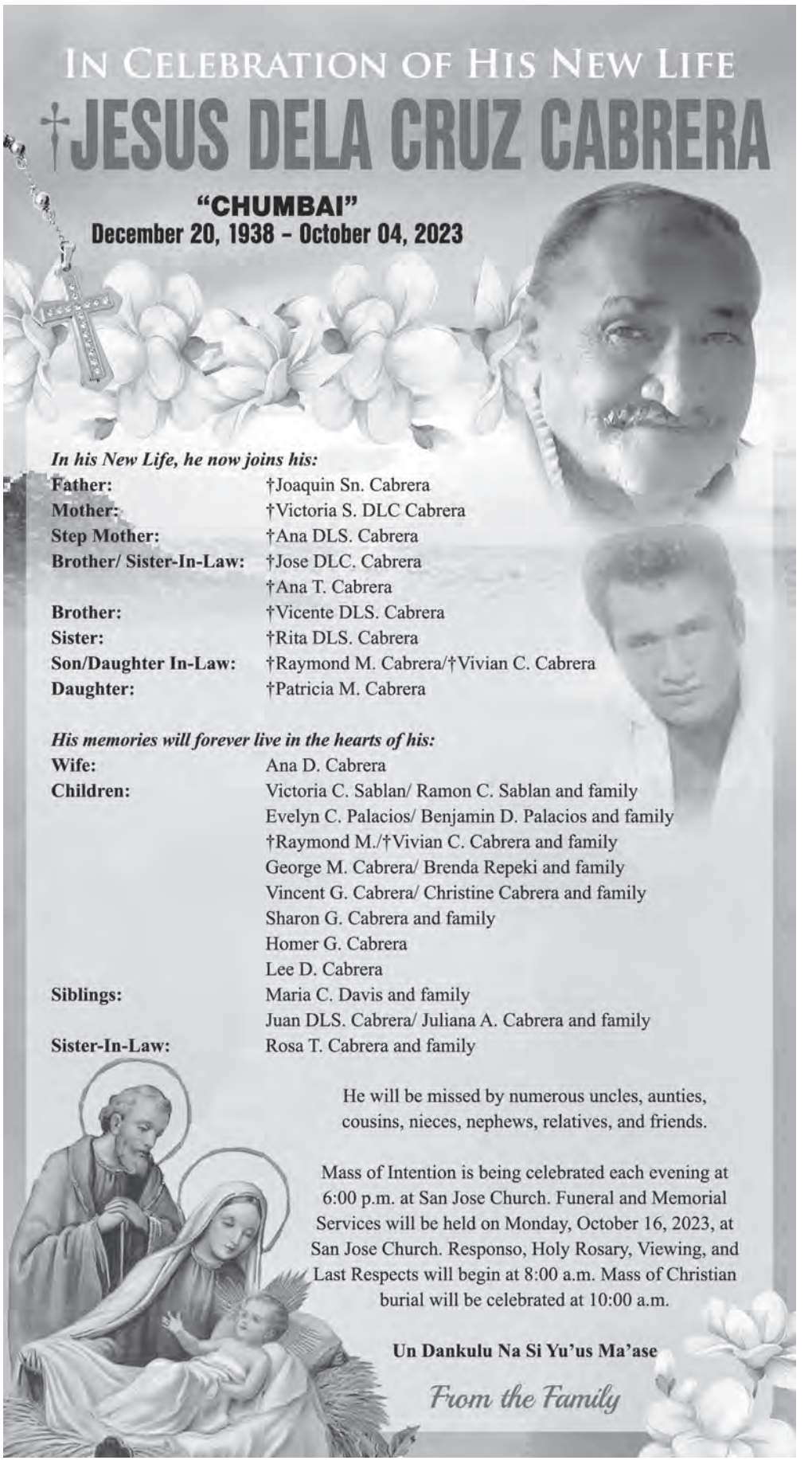
Plaintiffs expressed dismay, although some drew comfort from the ruling's recognition that discriminatory checks do happen and aren't rare.

"These high judicial authorities have failed to understand the violence and exclusion generated by these police practices," Issa Coulibaly, the head of a Paris youth association involved in the compalint, said in a statement.

"They failed to grasp the historic opportunity to improve the daily lives of millions of their fellow citizens, particularly those perceived as Black and Arab," said Coulibaly, who is Black.

The Council of State is France's ultimate arbiter on the use of power by authorities. The plaintiffs' lawsuit, France's first class-action case against police, was filed in 2021. It included a 220-page file that was chock full of examples of racial profiling by French police.

The complaint was filed by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Open Society Justice Initiative and three grassroots organizations that work with youth, including Coulibaly's group, Pazapas.


IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE
†JESUS DELA CRUZ CABRERA
"CHUMBAI"
December 20, 1938 – October 04, 2023
In his New Life, he now joins his:
Father: †Joaquin Sn. Cabrera
Mother: †Victoria S. DLC Cabrera
Step Mother: †Ana DLS. Cabrera
Brother/ Sister-In-Law: †Jose DLC. Cabrera
†Ana T. Cabrera
Brother: †Vicente DLS. Cabrera
Sister: †Rita DLS. Cabrera
Son/Daughter In-Law: †Raymond M. Cabrera/†Vivian C. Cabrera
Daughter: †Patricia M. Cabrera
His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Ana D. Cabrera
Children: Victoria C. Sablan/ Ramon C. Sablan and family
Evelyn C. Palacios/ Benjamin D. Palacios and family
†Raymond M./†Vivian C. Cabrera and family
George M. Cabrera/ Brenda Repeki and family
Vincent G. Cabrera/ Christine Cabrera and family
Sharon G. Cabrera and family
Homer G. Cabrera
Lee D. Cabrera
Siblings: Maria C. Davis and family
Juan DLS. Cabrera/ Juliana A. Cabrera and family
Sister-In-Law: Rosa T. Cabrera and family
He will be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.
Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 p.m. at San Jose Church. Funeral and Memorial Services will be held on Monday, October 16, 2023, at San Jose Church. Responso, Holy Rosary, Viewing, and Last Respects will begin at 8:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.
Un Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From the Family

Off The Wall

Oops! Nobel chemistry winners announced early in rare slip-up

STOCKHOLM (AP)—The most prestigious and secretive prize in science ran headfirst into the digital era Wednesday when Swedish media got an emailed press release revealing the winners of the Nobel Prize in chemistry and the news prematurely went public.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said it was investigating.

About four hours before the official announcement was planned Wednesday, several Swedish media received a press release from the academy revealing that U.S.-based scientists Moungi Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov had won the 2023 chemistry prize for their work on quantum dots.

The Associated Press did not receive the press release in advance and decided not to publish the names until confirmed by the academy, but many Swedish media organizations did. Many were suspicious of the email at first. They published the information, however, since the academy didn't write it off as false, merely insisting that the final decision on a winner had not yet been taken.

"We don't know what happened," the academy's secretary-general, Hans Ellengren, told The Associated Press. "This is very unfortunate, and we regret very much that that this happened. Exactly what happened I can't tell, because we don't know ourselves."

The five-member Nobel Prize committees spend months whittling down lists of nominations before the full academy makes its official decision on the day of the award, announcing Nobel winners at a scheduled news conference.

Wednesday's premature press release reinforced suspicions that the final decision is just a formality, since material including background information on the winners must be prepared in advance.

More importantly, it showed the difficulty of keeping anything secret for long in the age when virtually everything is online.

"It is an important principle that the prize winners are the first to find out, and that everyone else finds out afterward at the same time," the former head of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Göran Hansson, told news agency TT. "But in the electronic era the leaks can occur in different ways than in the newspaper era."

Until just under a decade ago, the academy sent a courier to AP and other news agencies carrying an envelope with the names of the winners. The courier would be connected to the academy by phone and wait for a cue to hand over the envelope at the moment the prize committee started reading the names of the winners.

The academy stopped the practice since the awards were being announced simultaneously on the digital platforms of the Nobel Prizes.

It is not the first time the names of winners slip out before the Nobel announcements. The literature prize, in a particular, was plagued by leaks in recent decades. And in 2010, Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet published the name of the medicine winner in advance.

TV4, public broadcaster SVT and news agency TT were among the Swedish media who received the news release by email at 7:31 a.m., just over four hours ahead of the scheduled prize announcement at 11:45 a.m.

Ellengren, the academy's secretary-general, said it would not comment on the exact process of nominating and awarding Nobel Prize laureates.

Florida swans that date to Queen Elizabeth II gift are rounded up for their annual physicals

AP

Steve Platt, right, and Steve Williams prepare to catch a swan for medical examinations on Lake Morton during the 43rd annual swan roundup Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, in Lakeland, Fla.

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—A flock of swans that grew from a gift nearly 70 years ago from Queen Elizabeth II has been rounded up in Florida to ensure they are all healthy.

On Tuesday, there were 50 swans collected in Lakeland, which is east of Tampa. Park supervisor Steve Williams said the birds are a cherished part of the city.

"I mean, they are a city icon. They are. And we take very good care of them," he said.

The roundup each fall enables veterinarians to conduct health examinations of the city-owned swans, with those scheduled for Wednesday morning. Lakeland's swans are descended from a pair of mute swans given by the late Queen Elizabeth II in 1957.

The goal is to keep them all in good shape, said veterinarian Price Dickson.

"Tomorrow we will be taking all of these swans one by one and giving each of them a physical exam, weighing them, checking for any infections, any wounds, any problems that would need to be addressed," Dixon said.

The city has conducted the annual wellness checkups since 1980.

Science & Technology

NASA shows off its first asteroid samples delivered by spacecraft

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA on Wednesday showed off its first asteroid samples delivered last month by a spacecraft—a jumble of black dust and rubble that's the most ever returned to Earth.

Scientists anticipated getting a cupful but are still unsure how much was grabbed from the carbon-rich asteroid named Bennu, almost 60 million miles (97 million kilometers) away. That's because the main sample chamber has yet to be opened, officials said during an event at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"It's been going slow and meticulous, but the science is already starting," said the mission's lead scientist, Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona.

NASA's Osiris-Rex spacecraft collected the samples three years ago from the surface of Bennu and then dropped them off sealed in a capsule during a flyby of Earth last month. The expected cupful was far more than the teaspoon or so that Japan brought back from a pair of missions.

Black dust and particles were scattered around the outside edge of the internal sample chamber, according to Lauretta. He said there's still "a whole treasure chest of extraterrestrial material" to be studied. The samples are priceless, the preserved building blocks from the dawn of the solar system.

No one at Wednesday's celebration at Johnson got to see any of the samples first-hand—just photos and video. The asteroid pieces were behind locked doors in a new lab at the space center, accessible only to scientists in protective gear.

Besides carbon, the asteroid rubble holds water in the form of water-bearing clay minerals, Lauretta and others pointed out.

"That is how we think water got to the Earth," he said. "Minerals like we're seeing from Bennu landed on Earth 4 billion years ago to 4.5 billion years ago, making our world habitable."

'Ring of fire' solar eclipse on Saturday

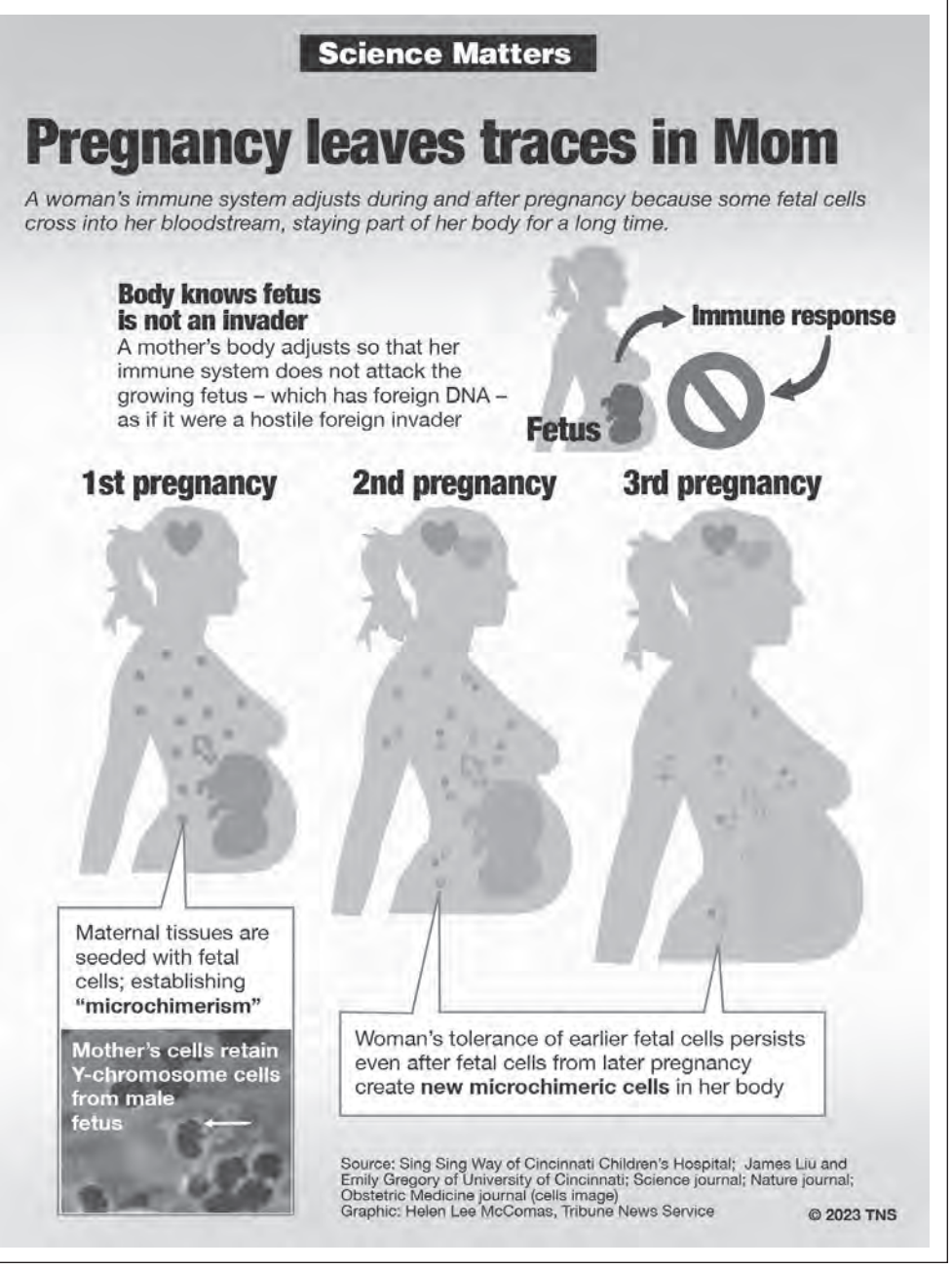
Tens of millions in the Americas will have front-row seats for Saturday's rare "ring of fire" eclipse of the sun.

What's called an annular solar eclipse—better known as a ring of fire—will briefly dim the skies over parts of the western U.S. and Central and South America.

As the moon lines up precisely between Earth and the sun, it will blot out all but the sun's outer rim. A bright, blazing border will appear around the moon for as much as five minutes, wowing skygazers along a narrow path stretching from Oregon to Brazil.

The celestial showstopper will yield a partial eclipse across the rest of the Western Hemisphere.

It's a prelude to the total solar eclipse that will sweep across Mexico, the eastern half of the U.S. and Canada, in six months. ***(AP)***


Science Matters
Pregnancy leaves traces in Mom
A woman's immune system adjusts during and after pregnancy because some fetal cells cross into her bloodstream, staying part of her body for a long time.
Body knows fetus is not an invader
A mother's body adjusts so that her immune system does not attack the growing fetus – which has foreign DNA – as if it were a hostile foreign invader
Immune response
Fetus
1st pregnancy
2nd pregnancy
3rd pregnancy
Maternal tissues are seeded with fetal cells; establishing "microchimerism"
Mother's cells retain Y-chromosome cells from male fetus
Woman's tolerance of earlier fetal cells persists even after fetal cells from later pregnancy create new microchimeric cells in her body
Source: Sing Sing Way of Cincinnati Children's Hospital; James Liu and Emily Gregory of University of Cincinnati; Science journal; Nature journal; Obstetric Medicine journal (cells image)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
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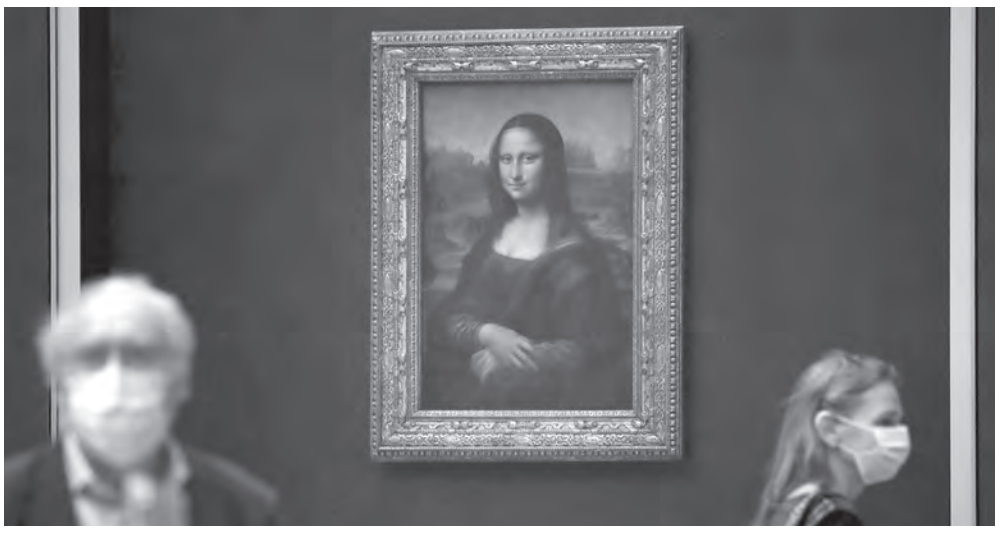
Life & Style

Scientists pry another secret from the 'Mona Lisa'

PARIS (AP)—The "Mona Lisa" has given up another secret.

Using X-rays to peer into the chemical structure of a tiny speck of the celebrated work of art, scientists have gained new insight into the techniques that Leonardo da Vinci used to paint his groundbreaking portrait of the woman with the exquisitely enigmatic smile.

The research, published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, suggests that the famously curious, learned and inventive Italian Renaissance master may have been in a particularly experimental mood when he set to work on the "Mona Lisa" early in the 16th century.



AP

Journalists walk past Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa during a visit of the Louvre museum Tuesday, June 23, 2020.

The oil-paint recipe that Leonardo used as his base layer to prepare the panel of poplar wood appears to have been different for the "Mona Lisa," with its own distinctive chemical signature, the team of scientists and art historians in France and Britain discovered.

"He was someone who loved to experiment, and each of his paintings is completely different technically," said Victor Gonzalez, the study's lead author and a chemist at France's top research body, the CNRS. Gonzalez has studied the chemical compositions of dozens of works by Leonardo, Rembrandt and other artists.

"In this case, it's interesting to see that indeed there is a specific technique for the ground layer of 'Mona Lisa,'" he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Specifically, the researchers found a rare compound, plumbonacrite, in Leonardo's first layer of paint. The discovery, Gonzalez said, confirmed for the first time what art historians had previously only hypothesized: that Leonardo most likely used lead oxide powder to thicken and help dry his paint as he began working on the portrait that now stares out from behind protective glass in the Louvre Museum in Paris.

Carmen Bambach, a specialist in Italian art and curator at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, who was not involved in the study, called the research "very exciting" and said any scientifically proven new insights into Leonardo's painting techniques are "extremely important news for the art world and our larger global society."

Barry Manilow prepares upcoming Broadway musical 'Harmony'

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 30 years after the musical "Harmony" was written, it finally prepares to make its Broadway debut. The show was almost lost to history—like its subject.

The historical show written by Barry Manilow and Bruce Sussman tells the true story of the forgotten German performing group The Comedian Harmonists. Many regard the six-man group as one of the first boy bands, as they recorded a string of popular albums and played sold-out venues around the globe.

But at the height of their popularity, the Nazi party took control of Germany, and they were denounced for being degenerates. Three of the group's members were Jewish, and possessing their music was considered a crime.

Relegated to obscurity and word of mouth, Sussman learned of the group through a German-language documentary. After seeing it, he recalls running to a phone booth in lower Manhattan to call his writing partner about what he just saw.

"I had never heard of them. And I thought, (Manilow) knows every song ever written. He knows every group that ever was," Sussman told the Associated Press in a recent interview after a rehearsal for the show.

Manilow was also unaware. "Then we realized that's the story," Sussman said.

But that was half the battle, as information on the group was hard to come by. "The Nazis tried to annihilate them, and they did. You couldn't find any records. You couldn't look at any of their movies," Manilow said.

Though they made approximately a dozen films and released numerous recordings, most were confiscated by authorities and destroyed.

James McBride wins $50,000 Kirkus Prize for fiction

NEW YORK (AP)—Three books that explore and celebrate the diversity of American culture were awarded Kirkus Prizes on Wednesday night, with each winner receiving $50,000.

James McBride's "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store," a novel set in an eclectic Pennsylvania town in the 1930s, won in the fiction category. Héctor Tobar's "Our Migrant Souls: A Meditation on Race and the Meanings and Myths of 'Latino'" received the nonfiction award, and Ariel Aberg-Riger's "America Redux: Visual Stories From Our Dynamic History" won for young reader's literature.

The awards were presented by the trade publication Kirkus Reviews.

"History and community emerged as central themes in the most outstanding works of literature published this year. We see these ideas come to life in wildly different ways in all three of this year's winners, each one compelling from beginning to end, begging to be celebrated, discussed, and shared," Meg Kuehn, publisher of Kirkus Reviews, said in a statement.

Huge rocket motors arrive at LA museum for space shuttle display

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two giant rocket motors required to display the retired NASA space shuttle Endeavour as if it's about to blast off arrived Wednesday at a Los Angeles museum, completing their long journey from the Mojave Desert.

The 116-foot-long (35.3-meter) motors, which look like giant white cylinders, were trucked over two days from the Mojave Air and Space Port to LA's Exposition Park, where the California Science Center's Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center is being built to display Endeavour.

Donated by Northrop Grumman, the motors are the largest components of the two solid rocket boosters that would be attached to a space shuttle's external tank to help the main engines lift the orbiter off the launch pad.

Schoolchildren were among several hundred people who watched the move—the latest spectacle in the yearslong process of preparing to put Endeavour on permanent display vertically as if it was about to blast off.

The massive shuttle was flown to Los Angeles International Airport atop a NASA Boeing 747 in 2012 and then was inched through city streets to the museum. The giant external tank arrived by barge and made a similar trip across Los Angeles.

The shuttle "stack"—assembly of the boosters, external tank and orbiter—will be completed before construction of the rest of the museum is finished around it.

Endeavour flew 25 missions before NASA's three-decade space shuttle program ended in 2011.

Relative's cat has worn out any kind of welcome

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law, "Irma," is a peach—she's the sweetest person in the world. She will do anything for anyone to lend a helping hand. Two weeks ago, she fell and broke her femur, which resulted in a significant hospital stay and needed rehabilitation. My wife and I have been taking care of her house and managing all her other daily tasks while she recovers, but one of these has become an issue.

Irma has an old, needy, unfriendly cat ("Mehitabelle") we have taken into our home during all of this. She hisses and growls at me constantly and won't allow me to give her medication, which is required twice daily. Irma loves her kitty and asks about her often.

We have two cats of our own, so we created a home for Mehitabelle in an upstairs bedroom in an effort to keep all the cats in the house amicable. (She doesn't get along with one of ours.) My wife and I have managed this so far, but things have grown dramatically worse.

In addition to her poor behavior, Mehitabelle refuses to use her litter box. We have set pads around the litter box and throughout the room, but it's still a terrible mess to clean up every day and takes more than an hour. That cat has single-handedly ruined this section of our house by urinating all over the floors and furniture.

We have a beautiful home we've worked hard on, and it really hurts to see the animal ruin things. She has to go, as I see it, but Mom loves her cat. What do we do?

"FELINE" BAD IN MISSOURI

DEAR "FELINE" BAD: Mehitabelle doesn't appear to like living with you any more than you like having her as a houseguest. If your mother-in-law's home is close enough to yours that you could go there once a day, you might all be happier if the kitty was returned to her own territory rather than staying at your place. If you or your wife could arrange to give Mehitabelle her meds once a day and find someone else willing to see that she gets her second dose, the situation might be workable until your mother-in-law is released. Please consider it. It may save your sanity.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I live with my best friend and his younger son. We get along well, but my friend's older son is a meth and heroin addict. He has stolen from all of us, but his father refuses to ban him from the house, saying he refuses to give up on his boy. This is tearing their family apart, and I'm at my wits' end emotionally. Please advise.

LOSING MY MIND IN OHIO

DEAR LOSING: I am sorry, but if you value the possessions you have worked hard to acquire, you will have to move out in order to protect them. Tell your friend you don't expect him to choose you over his drug-addicted son. Make clear that he and his younger son are welcome to visit you anytime, but you cannot ignore that his older boy is so caught up in his addiction that he can't be trusted. Then follow through.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

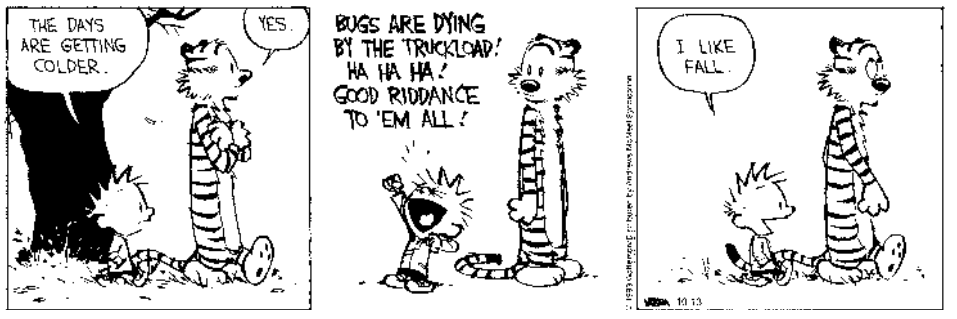
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

LET'S THINK. IF I DIDN'T LEAVE THE SEAT UP, AND WE DON'T HAVE A TOILET GHOST, AND THE KIDS ARE GONE...
I DON'T KNOW. DID YOU, LIKE, CLEAN THE TOILET AND FORGET TO PUT IT DOWN?
LAURA?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

SHOULD WE FEEL GUILTY SITTING INSIDE WATCHING T.V. ON SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY?
FEELING GUILTY IS EXACTLY WHAT THOSE FANATICAL OUTDOORS-LOVING PEOPLE WOULD WANT US TO DO.
YEAH, WHY CAN'T THEY LEAVE US ALONE TO WATCH PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING IN PEACE?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

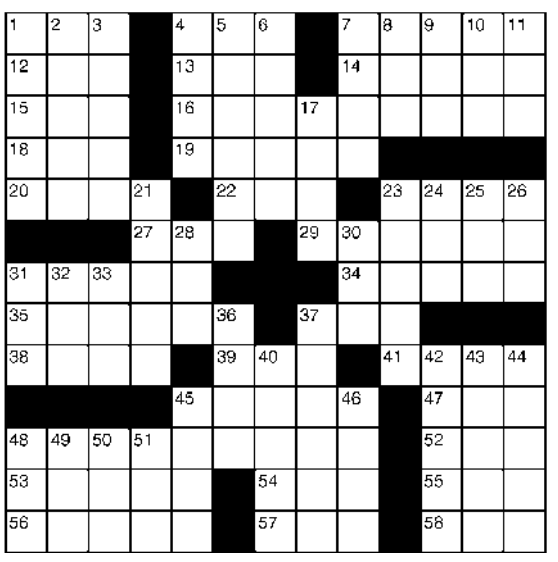
ACROSS
1 Shriver of tennis
4 Flow out
7 Trumpet part
12 Actress Thurman
13 Middling grade
14 Thai or Vietnamese
15 Photo, for short
16 Traditional plum pudding topping
18 — tizzy
19 Belly button type
20 Depths
22 "That'll be — day!"
23 Mediocre
27 Weep
29 Like ocean water
31 Wander off
34 "Skyfall" actress Judi
35 Inflatable mattress
37 Fed. office supplier
38 Green shade
39 Corn unit
41 "Today" anchor Hoda
45 Rawboned one
47 Have a cold
48 Pushover
52 Eastern "way"
53 "Pal Joey" author
54 Spell-off
55 Geological period
56 "Understood!"
57 Citric beverage
58 D.C. baseballer

DOWN
1 Student
2 Acid type
3 Showy parrot
4 Reverberate
5 Pulchritude
6 Docking place
7 Bud holder
8 Solid-rock insert
9 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
10 Rug cleaner, briefly
11 Compass dir.
17 Conks out
21 Union foes
23 Dreary
24 Architect Maya
25 Mandela's org.
26 Devilish laugh
28 Reuben bread
30 TV spots
31 "Cheers" bartender
32 Uncle (Sp.)
33 Train lines (Abbr.)
36 Erte's style
37 Adorned
40 Island off Venezuela
42 Like Cheerios
43 Royal crown
44 Distend
45 Doc's "Now!"
46 Clarified butter
48 Drench, in dialect
49 Sound of surprise
50 Corpulent
51 Prefix with athlete

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	A	W	■	P	A	L	L	■	M	I	R	A
A	G	O	■	A	I	A	I	■	I	G	O	R
C	A	R	D	G	A	M	F	■	N	F	A	T
■	■	■	D	U	E	■	B	I	Z	A	R	E
R	I	G	O	R	S	■	O	E	R	■	■	■
I	R	A	■	S	O	X	■	D	E	G	A	S
C	O	M	P	■	B	L	G	■	I	O	L	L
K	N	F	F	S	■	S	A	C	■	O	S	U
■	■	■	R	H	O	■	H	C	T	D	O	G
R	E	C	T	O	R	S	■	N	A	G	■	■
A	R	E	A	■	M	I	N	D	G	A	M	E
D	I	C	I	■	A	N	N	C	■	M	A	W
S	E	E	N	■	N	E	W	S	■	E	Y	E

Yesterday's answer 10-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Caleb McLaughlin, 22; Sacha Baron Cohen, 52; Kate Walsh, 56; Marie Osmond, 64.

Happy Birthday: Follow your passion, speak the truth and do things your way. Refuse to get caught up in someone else's dream when you have one to pursue. Put your energy into making a difference for yourself and finding solutions to your concerns. Don't let anger set in when time, patience and love will help you find the answers. Make personal growth a priority. Your numbers are 5, 19, 22, 27, 30, 38, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a breather and do what's best for you. Ask yourself tough questions and consider what brings you joy. Take responsibility for your happiness, and pursue the skills, knowledge and experience needed to get you where you want to be. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't let an opportunity pass you by, and don't give up on someone or something because it takes work to turn things around. Put your energy into a positive lifestyle change, and you'll find the desired happiness and rewards. Believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Explore new possibilities. Consider taking something you enjoy and turning it into a lucrative business. Reach out to people already involved in something you want to pursue. Consider the highs and lows of your situation and incorporate change. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't let temptation lead you astray. Make learning and experimenting your priorities, and consider positive changes that initiate better and healthier lifestyles. Keep your finances to yourself and leave nothing to chance. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Pay attention to what's happening around you. Be observant, listen carefully and participate in what resonates with you. Refuse to get swallowed up by someone who wants to dictate what you do when you can do your own thing. Be true to yourself. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Start something new and exciting or take your work to a higher level. Expand your interests, and be the driving force behind your success. It's time for a change, new beginnings or a broader platform to implement your plans. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't leave yourself open to criticism. Stick to the truth and build the life that makes you feel good about yourself and what you do to improve the world. Let your intelligence lead the way and your passion be your drive. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Initiate changes conducive to using your creative skills and imagination to get ahead and stabilize your life, relationships and pursuits. The more tailored you are to what makes you feel comfortable, the better the results. Peace and love are favored. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your eye on your goal, and network your way to the top. Use your experience and dynamism to approach those who can help you reach your target. Learn by watching experts and incorporating what you discover into your skills and commentary. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Pay attention to detail, look at every angle and adjust what you are doing to suit what's current. Be wary of suggestions from competitive people eager to throw you off track. Point yourself in a direction that you can achieve alone. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Set up guidelines, a budget and a doable timetable to initiate what you want to accomplish. A steady pace will get you where you want to go without letting outside interference interrupt your time and patience. Focus on what's important. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Review your track record and adjust your routine to fit what's changing around you. Staying current will keep you in the running and ward off any competition that you encounter. Pay more attention to your appearance, health and financial success. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, innovative and kind. You are assertive and helpful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6	2				3			
		9	4			2		6
				5			3	
	4		1			7		
			3		5			2
5	9			7		3	6	
		7	5		2			
9	6	4						
		3					7	

Difficulty: ★★★★ 10/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	6	1	2	3	8	9	4	5
5	9	3	7	4	1	2	8	6
4	8	2	6	5	9	3	1	7
6	3	4	8	1	5	7	9	2
8	1	5	9	2	7	6	3	4
2	7	9	4	6	3	1	5	8
3	5	6	1	8	2	4	7	9
1	4	7	5	9	6	8	2	3
9	2	8	3	7	4	5	6	1

Difficulty: ★★★ 10/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BOB BARKER (1923-2023) Solution: 10 letters

R	G	S	N	I	W	L	A	I	C	E	(P)	S	D	C
G	U	E	S	T	G	W	O	R	T	R	(E)	B	O	R
N	E	O	C	N	A	O	E	R	P	M	(T)	N	R	O
I	S	M	T	O	M	W	A	R	M	N	(S)	A	O	S
T	S	E	O	I	E	T	I	Y	A	E	T	N	T	E
A	T	E	N	S	S	C	R	L	Q	W	T	C	H	B
R	N	E	P	I	E	B	W	U	L	S	K	Y	Y	U
D	A	B	R	V	O	S	E	E	T	I	T	R	N	D
O	T	A	I	E	W	N	V	E	R	H	A	E	N	A
N	S	K	Z	L	C	A	B	C	G	D	P	M	A	D
E	E	C	E	E	R	P	Y	I	I	Y	V	A	N	L
B	T	U	S	T	E	S	R	O	N	O	H	N	S	I
I	N	H	E	T	A	C	O	V	D	A	H	O	S	T
D	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	L	A	M	I	N	A
W	C	N	E	S	R	E	V	I	N	U	S	S	I	M

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Advocate, Animals, Byron, CBS, Consequences, Contestants, Donations, Dorothy, Drew, Emmy, Games, Guess, Guest, Honors, Host, Huckabee, KTTS, Matilda, Miss Universe, Name, Nancy, Nanny, Navy, News, One Bid, Past, PETA, Pets, Price, Prizes, Radio, Rating, Right, Robert, Rosebud, Row, Show, Special, Star, Television, Tour, Travel, Truth, Voice, William, Wins, WWE Raw

Yesterday's Answer: Boats

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION** #1 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Abreu homers again to power Astros past Twins into 7th straight ALCS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Houston Astros gathered in the clubhouse with their bottles and goggles to toast another postseason victory, when manager Dusty Baker called Justin Verlander forward to lead the celebration.

"I'm doing the World Series!" Baker said. "You do this one!"

Verlander, after a profanity-punctuated speech that had teammates roaring with laughter, started the cork-popping countdown at seven—one for each consecutive AL Championship Series appearance.

José Abreu homered for the third time in two games, a two-run rocket in the fourth inning that launched the Astros to their seventh straight ALCS with a 3-2 win that eliminated the Minnesota Twins in Game 4 of their Division Series on Wednesday night.

"We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the bond that we have and the relationships that we have in this locker room, and we hold each other accountable in a good way," said Verlander, who returned to the Astros in August via trade from the New York Mets. "Obviously, this team is built different. These guys are built different. When it's time to step up, we play our best baseball."

José Urquidy gave the defending World Series champion Astros another solid postseason start, withstanding home runs by Royce Lewis in the first and Edouard Julien in the sixth before handing the ball to the bullpen.

Hector Neris and Bryan Abreu combined for five strikeouts over 2 1/3 hitless innings. Ryan Pressly, who pitched five-plus years for the Twins before a trade to Houston in 2018, struck out the side in the ninth for the save. He froze Max Kepler with a full-count fastball to end it, leaving former Astros star Carlos Correa on deck.

"Oh yeah, we knew, and I was trying not to have nightmares, because I remember when Carlos was with us he hit that ball up in the right-center field seats up there," Baker said, referring to Correa's homer at Minnesota in a 2020 Wild Card Series. "But we never got to Carlos, so that was a great, great victory."

Correa hit .409 with three doubles and four RBIs in the series.

"I wanted that at-bat so bad. I know Pressly very well, and it would've been a fun matchup," Correa said. "It didn't get there, but it's the way it was supposed to be."

Houston will host in-state rival Texas in Game 1 of the ALCS on Sunday, when Verlander is scheduled to make his 36th career postseason start.

AP

The Houston Astros celebrate in the locker room after the team defeated the Minnesota Twins in Game 4 to win a baseball AL Division Series, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, in Minneapolis.

"They know us, and we know them," Baker said, "and it's going to be a heck of a series."

The Astros, who are 56-34 in the playoffs since 2017, hit 10 homers in the series. Abreu had eight RBIs.

"They never give up, and they understand that this is the time where the greats need to be good," Abreu said through an interpreter.

Urquidy, much like Game 3 starter Cristian Javier, had an October track record to rely on after a forgettable regular season. The right-hander, who has logged 42 postseason innings and made his seventh start in the playoffs, missed three months with shoulder trouble this year.

Michael Brantley got the Astros started with a solo shot in the second against Twins starter Joe Ryan, who was pulled after that inning in manager Rocco Baldelli's all-out attempt to extend the series.

Caleb Thielbar, the only left-hander on the roster, gave up a leadoff single in the fourth to Yordan Alvarez, a win for the Twins considering he had two doubles and four homers in the series. With one out, Abreu hit a 1-0 fastball to the opposite field for a 3-1 lead.

The rest of the relievers gave the Twins some energy back from the crowd, particularly when Chris Paddack pitched 2 1/3 hitless innings with four strikeouts. But the home team just didn't have enough hits to overcome all those swings and misses.

Lewis gave the Twins another big-moment home run, a smash to left field with a similar trajectory to the one he hit in his first postseason at-bat in Game 1 of the Wild Card Series sweep over Toronto.

Bad luck cost them a critical extra run. Julien led off the game with a double, but Jorge Polanco followed with a line drive straight at Jeremy Peña that was sharp enough to give the shortstop time to make a diving tag on Julien for the double play.

"We didn't get it done in this series," Baldelli said. "We got beat, but I couldn't be happier with what I saw from so many of our guys, and I told them that."

DIAMONDBACKS 4, DODGERS 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Geraldo Perdomo got the Arizona Diamondbacks started with an unexpected homer, then Ketel Marte made the 48,000-plus at Chase Field giddy with another blast.

Christian Walker followed with a line-drive shot into the left-field seats and then Gabriel Moreno polished off the onslaught with a 420-foot moonshot into left-center.

One inning. Four hitters. Four solo homers.

"That's the coolest thing I've ever seen in my life," Walker said.

The hard-hitting Diamondbacks rode a record-setting barrage of homers in the third inning to a 4-2 win in Game 3 of their NL Division Series on Wednesday night, sweeping the 100-win Los Angeles Dodgers out of the playoffs.

The D-backs return to the NL Championship Series for the first time since 2007, where they'll face either the Phillies or Braves.

"This is what we worked all year for," rookie sensation Corbin Carroll said. "It's amazing to be here. It doesn't feel real."

Arizona—the No. 6 seed after squeezing into the NL playoff bracket with an 84-78 record—has won all five of its games during the postseason, sweeping aside both the Brewers in a best-of-three series and the Dodgers in a best-of-five.

The wild-card Diamondbacks won with brawn in this one, slugging a postseason-record four homers in the third off veteran righty Lance Lynn. That gave Arizona a 4-0 lead it never relinquished.

"It's almost unbelievable, right? I'm a fan, too, and I was looking at it thinking, what in the world is happening here?" Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said.

The NL West champion Dodgers rallied for two runs in the seventh on two-out RBI singles from Chris Taylor and Kiké Hernández off side-armer Ryan Thompson, but lefty Andrew Saalfrank entered and retired Austin Barnes on a groundout.

Will Smith had a one-out single in the ninth off closer Paul Sewald, but Taylor hit a flyout to deep center in front of the 413-foot sign and Hernández flied out to left to end it.

Sewald, acquired from Seattle in a trade-deadline deal on July 31, earned his fourth save of the postseason.

"You look at the game, the series, they outplayed us, and there's no other spin to it," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "As far as our clubhouse, it's just a lot of disappointment."

Lynn cruised through the first two innings of a scoreless game—giving no indication what was about to come.

Perdomo started the scoring with a leadoff homer, his first long ball since Aug. 13. One out later, Marte hit a 428-foot drive to right on a 1-0 cutter. With two outs, Walker pulled a 3-1 cutter to left for a 3-0 lead.

Then came No. 4: Moreno sliced a 2-1 fastball down the line to the opposite field that right field umpire Gabe Morales called fair. But the umpires huddled and crew chief Todd Tichenor reversed the call to foul, a decision upheld by a video review.

Moreno then drove Lynn's very next pitch—a hanging slider—over the left-field wall, flipping his bat high in the air as he started his trot.

"The one that was really impressive for me was Gabby Moreno. He hits one foul, then he hits one fair. It's a great moment for us," Lovullo said.

A few moments later, a dejected Lynn handed the ball to Roberts and trudged toward the dugout.

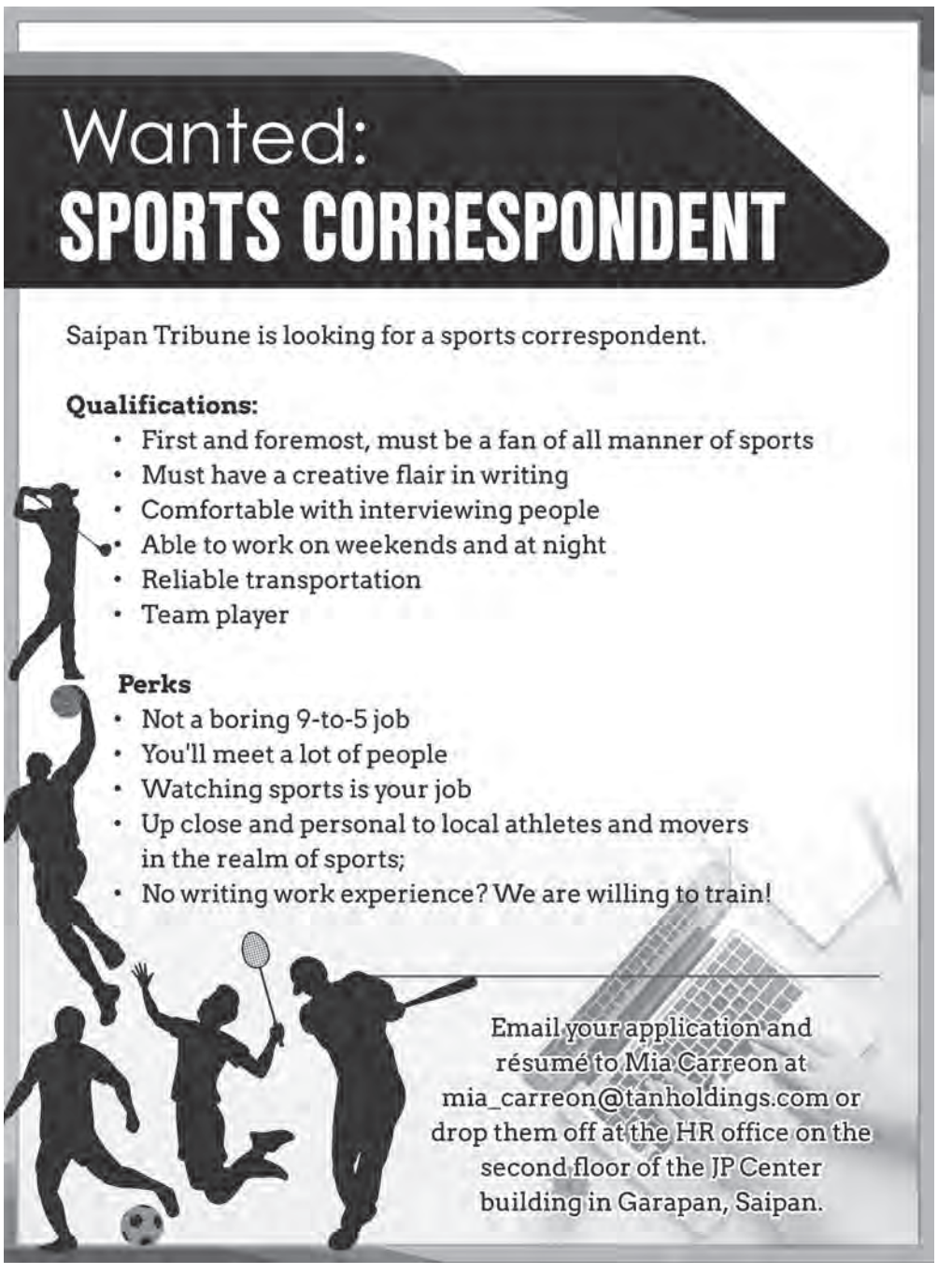
Lynn gave up 44 homers in the regular season, the most in the majors. The previous mark of three homers in a postseason inning had been accomplished 12 times, most recently by the Dodgers against Atlanta in 2020.

Arizona rookie right-hander Brandon Pfaadt threw 4 1/3 scoreless innings, giving up two hits and striking out two.

While the D-backs thrived, the Dodgers had no answers for a third straight game. A stacked lineup with a pair of former MVPs—Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman—couldn't make much of an impact throughout the series.

Both All-Stars struck out in the eighth against Kevin Ginkel with a runner on first. Betts finished the series 0 for 11 while Freeman was 1 for 10.

"The bottom line is that they outplayed us in every facet of the game," Roberts said.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Dolphins, 49ers off to record-threatening offensive starts

By JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Kyle Shanahan and Mike McDaniel spent years together scheming ways to exploit NFL defenses.

Now split apart with McDaniel in his second season coaching Miami and Shanahan in Year 7 in San Francisco, the two offensive coaches have their teams threatening records with their early season domination.

The 49ers and Dolphins rank 1-2 in several key offensive categories, from scoring to yards per play to success rate to passer rating to first downs.

Miami is the second team in NFL history to average at least 500 yards of offense a game through five games, with its 513.6 beating out the previous record of 505.4 set by the Rams in 2000.

The Dolphins are scoring 36.2 points per game for the best total at this point of the season in eight years, as defenses have had no answer for the speed of players like Tyreek Hill, De'Von Achane, Jaylen Waddle or Raheem Mostert.

Miami has seven of the nine fastest speeds for ball carriers tracked by NFL NextGen stats, led by Hill's 22.01 mph on a 64-yard catch last week. Hill also reached a speed of 20.95 mph on a 69-yard TD against the Giants last week that gave him five TDs on the season and tied him with Lance Alworth for fifth place with his 19th career TD of at least 60 yards.

AP

Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (1) listens to head coach Mike McDaniel during the second half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Achane has been on a record-setting pace of his own, with his seven TDs in his first four games ranking second in NFL history to Bill Paschal's eight in 1943.

Achane has rushed for 100 yards and a TD in three straight games, tied for the second-longest streak ever for a rookie since the merger behind Franco Harris' six-game streak in 1972. He is averaging 12.1 yards per carry on the season.

Achane will have to wait a bit to have a chance to tie Harris' streak after getting placed on injured reserve Wednesday with a knee injury.

Mostert leads the NFL with eight TDs, making the Dolphins the second team ever with three players with at least five TDs from scrimmage in the first five games of a season. New England did it in 2011 with Rob Gronkowski, Wes Welker and BenJarvus Green-Ellis.

The Niners have been more dominant overall, becoming the ninth team in the Super Bowl era to start 5-0 with a point differential of plus-99 or better. Six of the previous eight teams to do it made the Super Bowl, with Washington (1991), the Rams (1999) and Saints (2009) winning it all.

San Francisco is the sixth team to score at least 30 points in each of the first five games of a season and its eight-game regular-season streak of scoring at least 30 points ranks fifth-longest ever.

Quarterback Brock Purdy and running back Christian McCaffrey have fueled this run, with Purdy throwing a career-high four TD passes and McCaffrey running for a score in a 42-10 win over Dallas.

Purdy has won all 10 of his regular-season starts, with his 121.1 rating in those starts the best ever through 10 starts. He has completed 70.4% of his passes — second best to Chad Pennington's 70.8% — through 10 starts. Only Ben Roethlisberger has won more consecutive starts (15) to begin his career.

McCaffrey has TDs in 14 consecutive games in the regular season and playoffs, tied with Emmitt Smith for the fourth-longest streak ever. Only Lenny Moore (17 games), O.J. Simpson (15) and John Riggins (15) have longer streaks.

PITIFUL PATRIOTS

Bill Belichick appears to be set to eclipse the NFL coaching record for losses well before he becomes the winningest coach ever the way things are going for New England early this season.

One week after suffering his most lopsided loss in 498 career regular-season and playoff games as a head coach in a 38-3 defeat to Dallas, Belichick took his most lopsided shutout loss ever in a 34-0 defeat to New Orleans.

This marked just the 13th time in the Super Bowl era that a team lost back-to-back games by that many points, with Miami the last to do it in 2019.

The Patriots have allowed 69 consecutive points since making a field goal to tie Dallas at 3 early in that Week 4 game. That's two points shy of the most consecutive points allowed in franchise history, set in the team's inaugural season in 1960 when the Patriots gave up 71 straight points over three games.

The back-to-back losses leave Belichick with a career record of 330-169-0 in the regular season and playoffs. He is 17 shy of tying Don Shula's record for wins and nine shy of tying Tom Landry's record for losses.

MAGNIFICENT MAHOMES

With last week's win over Minnesota, Patrick Mahomes has beaten every team in the NFL in the regular season or playoffs other than his own Kansas City Chiefs, becoming the 10th player to beat 31 teams. Only Brett Favre, Peyton Manning, Drew Brees and Tom Brady have wins over all 32 teams.

Mahomes gets to play his favorite opponent this week when he tries to improve to 12-0 all-time against Denver. The only quarterback since at least 1950 who is undefeated against an opponent with more starts than Mahomes has against the Broncos is Otto Graham, who went 12-0 in his career against the Cardinals.

In all, Kansas City has won 15 straight games against Denver, which is tied for the fourth-longest regular-season winning streak against an opponent ever. Miami won 20 straight vs. Buffalo in the 1970s, San Francisco won 17 in a row against the Rams in the 1990s and Washington won 16 straight vs. Detroit from 1968-97.

UNDER PRESSURE

Sam Howell and Daniel Jones are spending far too much time on their backs this season.

Howell has been sacked an NFL-worst 29 times for Washington after taking five more last week, while Jones is only one behind at 28 for the Giants after being sacked six times against Miami.

Both are just behind the record-setting pace of David Carr. As a rookie on the expansion Texans in 2002, Carr was sacked 31 times in the first five games on the way to an NFL-record 76 for the season.

The only other time since the merger that a QB was sacked more in the first five games than Howell and Jones came in 2005 when Carr was sacked 30 times for Houston.

Analysis: Eagles, 49ers clear front-runners in NFC; AFC is more jumbled

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The Eagles and 49ers are the clear front-runners in the NFC while the AFC is jumbled five weeks into the season.

San Francisco made the biggest statement so far with a dominant 42-10 win over Dallas on Sunday night.

The 49ers (5-0) have been the NFL's most complete team. They can win behind Brock Purdy's passing, Christian McCaffrey's running or by leaning on Nick Bosa and a stingy defense.

An offense that's loaded with Purdy, McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel, George Kittle, Brandon Aiyuk easily handled one of the league's top defenses. The Cowboys couldn't do anything to stop San Francisco.

Injuries might be the only thing that can slow down the 49ers. They learned that last season when Purdy, who began the season as the No. 3 quarterback, tore an elbow ligament in the NFC championship game against Philadelphia.

The defending NFC champion Eagles (5-0) are still building their identity, but keep finding ways to win despite playing below the standard they set last season on their way to a Super Bowl appearance.

Similar to San Francisco, the Eagles beat teams multiple ways. They can do it in the air with Jalen Hurts throwing to A.J. Brown or other playmakers or on the ground behind Hurts, D'Andre Swift and a powerful offensive line.

The NFL's only two undefeated teams seem headed for a rematch in the conference title game with a Week 13 matchup to determine who gets the No. 1 seed. Of course, there's a long way to go until January.

The 49ers have a challenge on the road against Cleveland this week. The Browns (2-2) are coming off a bye so they've had extra time to prepare for San Francisco's dynamic offense. They'll need Deshaun Watson to return from a shoulder injury to have a chance.

The Eagles also have a difficult matchup on the road against the New York Jets (2-3).

There's a gap between Philly, San Francisco and the rest of the NFC, though the Detroit Lions (4-1) are playing up to preseason hype. The Lions haven't won a playoff game in 31 years, but it's a new era in Motown. The Cowboys (3-2) can't be counted out, either.

The AFC still goes through the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs (4-1). Kansas City only has had one dominant win. The Bills (3-2) went from dropping 48 points in a statement win over Miami to losing to the Jaguars (3-2) in London.

The Dolphins (4-1) have been mostly impressive except for their loss at Buffalo. They have two measuring stick games upcoming at Philadelphia and at Kansas City over the next four weeks.

Cincinnati is the biggest wild card in the AFC. If Joe Burrow is healthy, the Bengals (2-3) can make a run. Jacksonville, Baltimore (3-2) and the Los Angeles Chargers (2-2) also are in the mix.

GET READY FOR 2024

The Vikings and Giants met in the playoffs last season, but both are off to 1-4 starts and should start looking ahead to next season. New York hasn't had a chance in the three losses without injured running back Saquon Barkley. Up next is a trip to Buffalo. The Giants are the biggest underdog on the schedule this week so it'll take a major upset for them to avoid a 1-5 start.

Minnesota has already equaled its loss total from last season and now faces four games without All-Pro wide receiver Justin Jefferson.

With Kirk Cousins eligible for free agency after the season, the Vikings could look to add draft capital by making some trades before the Oct. 31 deadline.

HOME-FIELD DISADVANTAGE

Road teams are 40-36 this season, excluding two international games. That's the league's worst home record through five games since 2019, when road teams were 43-34-1 entering Week 6.

Many teams have fan bases that travel well, giving some road teams an edge when they're inside a visiting stadium. Eagles fans filled the seats in Tampa Bay in Week 3 and in Los Angeles last week. The Philly faithful were so loud inside SoFi Stadium that the noise disrupted the Rams' snap count a few times.

Allegiant Stadium was filled with Packers fans for Monday night's game against the Raiders. But they didn't make a difference in Green Bay's 17-13 loss.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Colts rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson has already displayed dynamic playmaking skills, but he needs to learn self-preservation in the NFL. Richardson has been knocked out of three games, missed one and is expected to miss another this week because of a shoulder injury. Richardson has had a bruised knee, sore ankle, concussion and now a sprained AC joint.

Doncic returns to Spain to warm welcome from former club

MADRID (AP)—Luka Doncic returned to Spain to a warm reception from former club Real Madrid in a preseason game with the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday, receiving a standing ovation by the home fans and being honored by his former teammates.

The "Luuukaaa" chants were back in the Spanish capital five years after the star guard left for the NBA, and the Slovenian looked moved while watching his past highlights on the big screen before the game.

Doncic, who was not fully fit, played less than five minutes and scored nine points in Dallas' 127-123 loss against his former club. Tim Hardaway Jr. led all scorers with 21 points for the Mavs, which also lost its two preseason games against the Minnesota Timberwolves last week in Abu Dhabi.

"I was waiting for this game all summer," Doncic said. "With the exception of not being able to play more, it was all very special. The whole day was very special."

Doncic said he couldn't play more minutes because he was bothered by some hip pain he started feeling in training on Monday.

Facundo Campazzo, who was signed and waived by Dallas last year, led Madrid's late rally and finished with 20 points for the hosts. Doncic's former teammate Sergio Llull and Vincent Poirier scored 19 points each for the Spanish club. Doncic went 3 for 6 with one assist, scoring all of his points with 3-pointers.

The Doncic jerseys were everywhere at the Wizink Center arena—the blue ones with the No. 77 that he wears now with the Mavericks, and the white ones with the No. 7 he used to wear with the club he joined as a young teenager.

"I don't know what to say. It's a special day for me," Doncic told the crowd in Spanish before the game. "I've seen my former teammates and people I had been with many years ago. Thank you all."

Doncic received an award by Real Madrid president Florentino Pérez as an honorary member of the club, and was given a replica of one of the trophies he won with Madrid. He held the replica at midcourt alongside some of his former teammates and current Madrid players.

"Luka deserves all of this and a lot more," Campazzo said.

"Luka is back," and "Real Madrid will always be your home," read some of the signs displayed by Madrid fans, many of which got autographs from the former star.

AP

Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic poses for a photo during a NBA basketball media day in Dallas, Friday, Sept. 29, 2023.

LAXA

From page 24

that started last August and will end in December.

Laxa recently returned from an on-site training in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia that was held from Sept. 25 to 29.

There, Laxa said the experience he received from that was great. "It was more than I expected. We were lucky enough that we were given top instructors that will guide us throughout the three-year course."

Laxa's main takeaway from the onsite training was a statement by Anthony Taylor, a professional referee in the Premier League, who said, "It takes resilience to be a top referee" and "Process is my foundation."

As for how he felt being chosen as the first referee in the CNMI for the program, Laxa said "it's an honor."

"The referee pool in the CNMI is very limited because the majority of the football players here focus only on becoming a football player or a football coach. So, it's truly a privilege for me to be selected from that limited pool to participate in this opportunity. This is surely a huge step for the development of referees in the CNMI and another pathway for our future generation of aspiring referees."

Asked how it is as a referee, he said "Being a referee isn't easy. We have a crucial role in football games because we need to ensure that the rules are being enforced and implemented correctly. So, I will be taking advantage of this opportunity and approach it with an open mind and willingness to learn. Throughout this program, I expect to learn how to manage football games better, make quicker decisions during a game, verbal communication, and many more."

Laxa has been a soccer coach for about two years and a referee for six years. He started as an assistant referee for about four years then moved up to center referee.

On why he became a referee, Laxa said, "At first, I just wanted the money. I started probably 16-17 years old and I didn't have a job and I wanted money. Then as I started to commit more, I started enjoying it, it was far more different than playing the game. It was thanks to the head of the Referee Committee Ruselle Zapanta, who took interest and found potential in me, that I kept pursuing this pathway."

Besides soccer, Laxa is also a bodybuilder and is set to represent CNMI in the 2023 Pacific Games this November.

SIS

From page 24

school girls individual standings, SIS' Kaylen Taflinger came in with a time of 7:27.76; followed by SIS' Isla Grant at 7:39.40; and BSS' Lovel Spaeth came was third with a time of 7:51.17.

In the elementary school boys individual standings, GTC's Orion Garde topped it with a time of 7:11.40; second was SIS' Ezra West at 7:13.46; and third place went to GCA's Beau Bauer.

In the middle school girls individual standings, SIS runners made the Top 3. Adalee Taflinger came in first with a time of 13:46.27; second was Eliza Culp at 15:38.17; and third place was Leilani Ruszala who clocked in at 15:59.76.

For BSS' team, which had made the podium in each qualifier, principal Terra Allen said "Our boys team has done very well. Both teams have consistently been in 2nd place, with one boys first place win. They have consistently been impressed by their stamina and endurance! They seem to love running! We hope for a few top finishes in the championships!"

The BSS team consists of runners 5 years old and up. They have three 5-year-olds, three 6-year-olds, and two 7-year-olds. LoVel Spaeth has been leading the girls races—coming in first in three of four races.

The 3-mile course for the high school cross country wrapped around ChaCha Middle School, Kagman Elementary School, up to Forbidden Island Lookout, and back to the elementary school. The middle school, 2-mile course wrapped around the elementary and middle school campuses twice, while the 1-mile elementary school course wrapped around once.

The championships is set for 6:30am this Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Saipan Country Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Middle school cross country runners take off through the last PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 qualifier, the Kagman High School Invitational at ChaCha Ocean View Middle School last Saturday.

AIMELIIK

From page 24

ning off a two-RBI home run by Ricky Norita, but the Bat Boys were already up by six runs, 8-2.

The Bat Boys then bombarded Team Mac pitcher Delvin Manahane with nine runs in the third inning, and the game ended in the fourth after Team Mac's offense failed to produce.

Saipal 18, Dat's It 6

Saipal gave Dat's It a beating as they won, 18-6.

M.J. Aldan started off Saipal's offense with a leadoff home run at the top of the first inning, followed by four more runs from the middle of the lineup. Syl Teregeyo added one more in the second inning for a 6-0 game.

Dat's It's Derek Abraham put them up on the board in the second inning, but the rest of the lineup were immediately shut down. Saipal proceeded to rack up more runs as they scored one in the third, then eight more in the fourth.

Dat's It only replied with a five-run third inning from a two-run homer by T.J. Cruz and a three-RBI home run by J.D. Dikito. Meanwhile, Saipal added three more runs and won by a longshot.

Mamaaw 15, Blue Jays 8

Mamaaw went away with the win against the Blue Jays, 15-8.

Mamaaw went to work early as they put up six runs in the first inning from home runs by Giovanni Mira, Ze Lifoifoi, and Keoni Kaipat. The Blue Jays came up with just two in their at-bat for a 6-2 game.

As Mamaaw's offense went on to score more runs, their pitcher, Mira, helped his cause by shutting down the Blue Jays' offense for four scoreless innings. Mamaaw scored four in the second, then three more later in the game, which was enough to deter the Blue Jays from making a comeback.

PayDayHao 10, No Choice 5

PayDayHao doubled their runs against No Choice, 10-5.

It was a slow burn for No Choice as it seemed like PayDayHao's pitcher, Mark Villagomez would pitch a shutout game—but No Choice scored five in the fifth inning.

However, PayDayHao was ahead by two runs, 7-5 and in the last inning, Juan Iguel hit a go-ahead three-run home run to put them up by five. Villagomez then went on to retire No Choice in order in their last at-bat.

TuTuRamZ 18, Ready Mix 10

TuTuRamZ held on to win against Ready Mix, 18-10.

Runs were made early for TuTuRamZ and they led 14-7 by the fourth inning. Ready Mix then added two more runs in the fifth, but TuTuRamZ still had the lead and added three more runs for a 17-9 game.

As Ready Mix scored just one more in the sixth and TuTuRamZ scored two, TuTuRamZ took the W.

No Excuse 15, Kebruka 8

No Excuse staved off Kebruka's run for a comeback and won, 15-8.

No Excuse pitcher Marin Kaipat ensured they held onto the sixth inning, 10-7 lead by allowing only one more run to score. He was assisted by his offense who added five more runs—three in the sixth and two in the seventh from a two-run home run by Byron Kaipat.

As for the seven other teams who made it to the playoffs, their records are:Just 4 Fun also at 12-1; No Excuse is 11-2; Kebruka and Mamaaw are at a 9-4 record each; PayDayHao is 8-5; and Saipal and Blue Jays are both 6-7.

For the teams that didn't make it, their records were, Dat's It, Ready Mix, and Team Mac at 4-9; and No Choice and Seaweed Vibes with only one win each, 1-12.

NBA Briefs

Nets coach Vaughn says team from Israel wants to play exhibition game despite war at home

NEW YORK (AP)—Nets coach Jacque Vaughn said their opponent from Israel still wants to play an exhibition game Thursday night in Brooklyn, days after the country was attacked by Hamas militants. Maccabi Ra'anana will be opening a three-game tour against NBA teams. Nets center Nic Claxton questioned Wednesday whether the game should be played because of the ongoing war that has already claimed more than 2,300 lives. "We feel for the players that we're playing against," the center said. "I don't know if we should be playing the game personally. I don't think we should be playing the game." Asked why he felt that way, Claxton responded: "Because there's bigger things in the world going on than basketball." But Vaughn said canceling the game would be against the wishes of the team from the Israeli National League. "Just organizationally, we have been in contact with Maccabi and Maccabi has reiterated to us that they do want to play the game," Vaughn said. Maccabi Ra'anana will also visit Cleveland and Minnesota. Last year, it faced the Los Angeles Clippers, Oklahoma City and Portland during the preseason.

Hornets waive Kai Jones days after he requested trade

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Charlotte Hornets have waived former first-round draft pick Kai Jones just three days after the center/forward announced on social media that he had requested to be traded. Jones was not with the Hornets for training camp, with the team citing "personal reasons" in a statement. The decision came after Jones displayed some bizarre behavior on social media over the last few months, which including criticism of his teammates. The 19th overall pick in 2021 out of Texas, Jones appeared in 67 games in two seasons with the Hornets, averaging 2.7 points in 9.1 minutes per game.

Abreu homers again to power Astros past Twins into 7th straight ALCS.

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Doncic returns to Spain to warm welcome from former club.

PAGE 23

Laxa 1st CNMI referee in AFC Referee Academy Program

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Davy Laxa is the first soccer referee from the CNMI to be nominated into the AFC Referee Academy Program.

It is a three-year program that enhances the knowledge and skills of football referees and provides them with tools, resources, and experiences to improve.

The 23-year-old assistant coach for the CNMI Men's National Soccer Team and member of the Referee Committee is going through the first module, which is a weekly virtual class

See LAXA on Page 23

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Davy Laxa, left, poses with Premier League referee Anthony Taylor during the AFC Referee Academy Program on-site training last Sept. 25-29.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Davy Laxa, the only CNMI referee nominated to the AFC Referee Academy Program, is seen in the Asian Football Federation building in Kuala Lumpar, Malaysia during his on-site training last Sept. 25-29.

Aimeliik Bat Boys clinch softball pennant

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Aimeliik Bat Boys clinched the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League after they crushed Team Mac, 17-2, at the Dan Dan Softball Field last Sunday.

The Bat Boys ended the regular season with a 12-1 record and is the team to beat during the playoffs that is set to start this Sunday, Oct. 15.

The Bat Boys unleashed a barrage of unanswered runs that ended the game as quickly as it started. Five runs came in the first inning from a two-run home run by Nokki Saralu, plus runs by Lamarc Iguel, Harry Nakamura, and Roy Norita.

No runs were made by Team Mac until the third in-

See AIMELIIK on Page 23

LEIGH GASES

Aimeliik Bat Boys pitcher Luis Iguel releases a pitch during their game against Team Mac in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League at the DanDan Softball Field last Sunday.

SIS sweeps ES, MS girls division in last qualifier

By LEIGH GASES
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Saipan International School is the top contender of the cross country season as they swept the elementary school and middle school girls division of the last PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 qualifier—the Kagman High School Invitational at ChaCha Ocean View Middle School—last Saturday.

The Baby Geckos won first place in the elementary school girls division by a longshot of 13 points; second place went to Brilliant Star School with 35 points; and Grace Christian Academy was third place with 77 points.

For the elementary school boys division, the Baby Geckos took first place with 23 points; followed by BSS at 52 points; and GCA with 73 points.

In the middle school girls division, the Lady Geckos tore up the course and won with 12 points; Agape Christian School came in second with 56 points; and Saipan Community School was third with 58 points.

Top 3 in the elementary

See SIS on Page 23

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elementary school cross country runners take off through the last PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 qualifier, the Kagman High School Invitational at ChaCha Ocean View Middle School last Saturday.